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CONFIDENTIAL.

(4541.)

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424

PART LXV.

# FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

# AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

118

September 1881.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

# Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

## Part LXV.

No. 1.

*Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.*—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, September* 1.)

*Sublime Porte, le* 24 *Août*, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 17 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie avec son annexe d'une dépêche que je viens d'adresser à notre Chargé d'Affaires à Athènes relativement au brigandage qui infeste nos provinces limitrophes.

Votre Excellence verra par la lecture de ces pièces où est la source du mal.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 1.

*Assim Pasha to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens.*

*Sublime Porte, le* 18 *Août*, 1881.

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, copie d'un rapport du Gouverneur de Trikala, ayant trait au brigandage qui infeste cette province.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, Halil Bey se plaint de la recrudescence du mal dans ces derniers temps. Les bandits, sûr de l'appui moral des autorités Helléniques des districts limitrophes, commettent toute sorte de méfaits sur notre territoire, et repassent la frontière aussitôt qu'ils se voient poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes. Ils ont, au vu et au su de tout le monde, choisi domicile en Grèce, où ils vivent sans être nullement inquiétés. Quelques fonctionnaires poussent la complaisance jusqu'à nouer des relations avec les malfaiteurs, enhardis déjà par la perspective d'une amnistie générale.

Il est évident qu'aussi longtemps que ce système d'impunité durera nous ne devons pas nous attendre au succès des efforts que les autorités Impériales ne cessent de déployer dans le but d'extirper le brigandage.

Nous le déplorons d'autant plus que depuis quelque temps nous voyons se produire des tentatives ayant pour but d'intervertir les responsabilités aux yeux des Puissances.

En attirant sur cette question votre plus sérieuse attention, je vous prie de faire auprès du Gouvernement Hellénique des démarches pressantes en vue de l'engager à adopter les mesures les mieux appropriées à seconder l'action de nos autorités tendant à maintenir la sécurité dans les districts frontières.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 2.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 2.)

E (No. 98.)

*Scutari, August* 22, 1881.

My Lord,

REPORTS have lately reached this that Dervish Pasha is meeting with opposition from the mountaineers around Jacova in his attempt to carry out the conscription among them.

I understand that the mountaineers state that when Dervish Pasha first arrived at Prisrend he summoned their Chiefs, and promised them that their clans would not be subject to the regular military service, provided they desisted from their opposition to the Ottoman authorities. However, to guard themselves against a surprise, the mountaineers bound themselves under a very solemn "bessa," or engagement, to assist each other, whenever needful, in resisting to the utmost the slightest attempt of the Turkish Pasha to encroach upon their privileges, or to make them subject to the military levy.

I presume it was for the purpose of testing the value of this well-known engagement of the mountaineers that Dervish Pasha, last week, directed Hadji Osman Pasha, who commands at Jacova, to send two battalions of Nizams to the important village of Usnuk, three hours distant from the town, on the slopes of the Crasnič mountains, and subject it to the conscription.

When the Nizams reached a defile in the vicinity of Usnuk, they suddenly perceived that they were surrounded by a body of about 3,000 Albanians, and a halt became necessary for a consultation to take place among the officers; but, whilst it was proceeding, the threatening attitude of the mountaineers increased; their war-cries and shots of defiance filled the air, and all at once a panic seized the Turkish troops, who broke and fled in the greatest disorder back to Jacova.

The signal of danger which had been given by the villagers of Usnuk very quickly assembled most of the mountaineers, and they, shortly after the return of the flying troops, appeared in the vicinity of Jacova, about 7,000 strong, with the intention of attacking Hadji Osman Pasha and his battalions.

The prudent counsels of Suleiman-el-Voksi, one of the commanders at the battle of Stimljia, and who is now sheltered by the Crasnič mountaineers, however, prevailed, and, after causing a momentary alarm at Jacova, the clansmen withdrew, determined to rely on the defensive strength of their mountains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 3.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 855 A.)

*Foreign Office, September* 2, 1881.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador inquired to-day what course Her Majesty's Government intend to take on the application of the Porte for the settlement of the Bulgarian Tribute question, as provided by Article IX of the Treaty of Berlin.

I replied that as the delimitation of Bulgaria was completed and accepted by the Porte, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to confer with his colleagues on the Tribute question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 4.

*Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 135.)

*Sophia, August* 22, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 105 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a notice has been published in the official journal to the effect that, in consequence of the restoration of tranquillity in the Prefectures of Rahova and Plevna, the state of siege which had been declared in those two Prefectures has been raised.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Macdonell.



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No. 5.

*Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 3.)

E (No. 137.)

*Sophia, August* 24, 1881.

My Lord,

M. STOILOFF, the Chief of the Chancellerie of the Prince of Bulgaria, has informed me that it is probable that the Council of State will be constituted in the course of next month. It has been arranged that one-third of the Council of State is to be nominated by the Prince, and two-thirds are to be elected by means of a double election. M. Stoiloff hoped that this recognition of the principle of popular representation would produce a favourable impression upon public opinion in England.

I understand that it is intended that the Council of State should consist of twelve members, four of whom will be nominated by the Prince, not including the President, who will also be nominated by His Highness. The Bulgarian Ministers, of whom there are at present five, will *ex officio* be members of the Council, so that although in theory only one-third of the members are nominated by the Prince, His Highness will be able to count upon ten votes out of eighteen.

I have been informed that M. Drinoff, who has acquired a considerable reputation as the author of a Bulgarian history, and who has hitherto been a professor in a Russian University, has, after some hesitation, accepted the post of President of the Council of State.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

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No. 6.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 9.)

*Salonica, September* 3, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR of Salonica received yesterday a telegraphic request from Governor of Thessaly to make arrangements for housing 110 Mahommedan families who are about to quit their homes in Larissa and Tirnova [?], in Macedonia. A Government steamer leaves to-day for coast of Thessaly to embark and convey these refugees to Salonica.

(Sent to Constantinople and Athens.)

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No. 7.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 96.)

*Salonica, August* 12, 1881.

My Lord,

LARGE numbers of brigands have within the last six weeks come in and surrendered themselves to the authorities in Macedonia on the promise of a full pardon granted them by the military authorities of Thessaly.

The inclosed translated extract from a letter which I have received from my correspondent at Catterina refers to this subject, and furnishes a list of no less than 146 brigands who have been pardoned in that district alone!

A similar pardon has also been extended to eighty-two brigands in Selfidjé (Servia), a district in the Vilayet of Monastir, but subject to the Military Governor of Thessaly; and to thirty-two Bulgarians, under the Chief Elia, in the Sandjak of Monastir. The above measure is nothing less than a full amnesty.

It is not limited by any exceptions, and demands but nominal conditions, viz., a personal guarantee for future good conduct, and the liability of a pardoned brigand to the legal consequences of his acts in case any of his victims should prefer charges against him in the local Courts.

The first condition seems to have been executed, to say the least, in a blamable and unseemly manner by the authorities of Catterina. They have taken indiscriminately the

first comers as guarantees for some of the most notorious robbers and cut-throats; and I have been assured by a well-informed official that a mere lad, the son of a poor washer-woman, was accepted as surety for no less than twenty of these pardoned outlaws!

With regard to the second condition, it is good for nothing, for not one out of ten victims will venture to take legal proceedings against the brigands from fear of incurring their vengeance.

Most of the brigands who have been pardoned are known to have taken an active part in numerous highway robberies; many have been instrumental in committing acts of cruelty against Turks and Christians indiscriminately; and not a few have perpetrated atrocious crimes punishable capitally.

These proceedings of the authorities of Catterina, which excite indignant comments on the part of the public, are all the more strange and unaccountable in view of the active military operations personally conducted by the Ferik Selami Pasha, second in command under Salih Pasha, for the capture or dispersion of the various bands infesting the southern districts of Macedonia.

No less than fifteen battalions of infantry have been employed for the last six weeks in these operations: they were divided into two columns, one of which watched the mountain passes and defiles, while the other marched along scouring the country to the foot of Mount Olympus.

The bands, being hard pressed by these movements, succeeded in crossing over into the district of Catterina by fording the River Vistritza (Halyacmon), which at this season of the year is fordable everywhere, and, having so far escaped the pursuit of Selami Pasha, large numbers of them eagerly accepted the ridiculous amnesty offered them by the Commandant and Kaïmakam of Catterina, with the approval of the Military Governor of Thessaly, but without the sanction or co-operation of the military authorities in Macedonia.

I have reason to know that Salih Pasha strongly deprecates these proceedings, and has telegraphed to the Porte urging it not to sanction the practice of indiscriminately extending pardon to notorious brigands and malefactors—a practice that can confer no lasting benefit on the public, while it goes far to expose the weakness of the Sultan's authority in the country.

I should not omit to report that among the brigands who have been pardoned there are more than forty Tosca Albanians from Epirus who deserted from the force instituted by the late Governor-General of Salonica, Abédine Pasha, for the suppression of brigandage. (*Vide* my Report to Sir Henry Layard of the 23rd May, 1880.)

The frequent complaints that have been made against this force have caused Salih Pasha to collect the men composing it under the immediate supervision of Selami Pasha, but as the forward movement of the latter must soon terminate he is at a loss to know how to dispose of them, having more than once represented to the Porte the absolute inefficiency, and worse, of this auxiliary police. (*Vide* my Report of the 10th May, 1881.)

Some of the most desperate and notorious brigands are still at large and likely to cause further trouble to the authorities and inhabitants of Macedonia.

Panayotti Caloyeros, with his band of more than forty individuals, moves about with impunity. He has in his possession twenty hostages, most of them being women and children, and threatens to massacre them in case he meets with molestation from the military.

Catarahia, at the head of thirty-two followers, is occasionally heard of in the districts of the Vilayet of Monastir; and Nico, with his band reduced to seven men, has reappeared in the district of Niausta, where about three or four weeks ago he caused a Greek priest to baptize a Tosca Mahommedan who joined his band.

This baptism was performed "amid rural sights and sounds" with the most scrupulous observance of all the rites and ceremonies of the Greek Church, Nico standing as Godfather to the neophyte, and taking care to present to the officiating priest his Church dues! The Archbishop of Caraferia (Berœa), however, has, as I have been told by a gentleman who has lately arrived from there, marked his disapproval of this new missionary movement in Macedonia by inhibiting the priest of Niausta.

In the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama comparative tranquillity prevails, but in that of Uscup, particularly in districts contiguous to the Bulgarian border, brigands still continue to molest the inhabitants.

The inclosed translated extract from the "Cossova Gazette" furnishes some information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

*Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Catterina, dated August 8, 1881.*

(Translation.)

THE Kaïmakam and the Commandant of Catterina, as soon as they arrived here, summoned the Primates of the villages, the Abbots of the monasteries, and the Soubashis (stewards) of the farms, and said to them: "As we have come here to put a stop to brigandage, and bring back tranquillity and security, we have orders that you, the inhabitants, should also take part with the Imperial troops in this business. Arms and ammunition will be served out to you, and we call upon you to give any information you have or shall receive respecting the movements of the brigands to the officers and local authorities. You must put your signatures and seals to a document drawn up for this purpose, for we are informed that most of the brigands belong to the district."

All the inhabitants appeared willing, and signed and sealed the said document; but they put two questions to Rustem Bey, the Commandant:—

The first, if it were not possible that an amnesty should be given to those who wished to lay down their arms; and the second, whether the military measures about to be taken were general or partial, for if the people joined the troops the brigands might flee to other districts, and on the troops quitting the villages, abandoning the inhabitants to their mercy, the brigands would subsequently take their revenge on them, finding them disarmed, and at their field work. Such examples are but too recent to be forgotten.

The Commandant answered them next day, having received new orders from his superiors at Larissa, that the Government grants an amnesty to repentants, and expects guarantees for their future good conduct.

As regards the second question, Rustem Bey assured the people that the Government would never allow the village communities to remain without efficacious protection. Upon this declaration many chiefs and brigands, amounting in all to 146, as per subjoined list, laid down their arms and were pardoned.

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List of Brigands who have been pardoned by the Authorities at Catterina.

*Chiefs.*

Arghiri Cokino, native of village Pallio Nestani.
Panayotti, native of village Colindro.
Elia Zarcoda, native of village Radani.
Koutras, native of village Kotzana.
Kara Manoli, native of village Dranista.
Thanass Spano, native of Vilayet of Monastir.
Stepho, ditto, ditto.
Vanghelli Bulgaris, ditto, ditto.
Djamali, Tosca Albanian, native of Janina.
Ghiorghi Tchamis, ditto, ditto.
Yannis, Albanian, native of village of Vrondo.
Costandis Hassiotis, Albanian, native of Briatza, Thessaly.

Twelve Chiefs, of whom 11 Greeks and 1 Mahommedan; 134 brigands; 146 total pardoned.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

*Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of July 19, 1881.*

(Translation.)

OUR readers will remember how, on Monday the $\frac{15}{27}$th June last, at about 11 o'clock (6·30 A.M.), a band of ruffians, fifteen in number, of Bulgarian nationality, made an inroad on a village known as Libovik Bala (Upper), situated in the Caza of Radovitza, with a population wholly Christian, and, capturing three children belonging to some of the villagers, carried them off to the mountains. It appears now, from official information received by the Vali (of Cossova) from the Mutessarif of Uscup, that on the same day some fourteen persons, also Christians, from the village of Kozpounar, in the direction of Kochana, also (like Libovik Bala) lying within the Kaïmakamlik of Radovitza, who were

engaged in mowing hay on the Djebr Mountains, situated within the same Caza of Kochana, were attacked by a band of Bulgarian cut-throats, thirty in number, who bound them hand and foot. Subsequently ten of them were released, while the remaining four were detained as prisoners.

As soon as intelligence of the outrage reached the authorities, prompt and effective measures were immediately taken, a body of men composed of the regular troops and zaptiehs being dispatched in pursuit. We hear that the Kaïmakam of Radovitza is making the most strenuous efforts to capture this band of marauders.

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## No. 8.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)*

E
(No. 98.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 13, 1881.

I HAVE been informed by persons who have recently visited Uscup and Pristina, that there are symptoms of considerable agitation in Upper Albania, particularly in the districts of Ipek, Djacova, and Dibra.

It appears that the taking of the Census, as ordered by Dervish Pasha, is strongly objected to by the inhabitants, and has given rise to acts of insubordination in more than one locality.

In fact, my informants assure me that Dervish Pasha's efforts to pacify the country are counteracted by a latent spirit of revolt among the inhabitants which may again openly break out upon the first favourable opportunity.

I have no means of ascertaining how far the above information is correct, but that the situation in North Albania is not altogether satisfactory appears to be in some measure confirmed by the inclosed translated copy of a recent Proclamation of Dervish Pasha to the Albanians relative to their attempted evasion of the Census, and by the request which, I am told, his Excellency has made to the Porte, by telegraph, that some of the troops about to evacuate Thessaly should be ordered to proceed to Prisrend and Dibra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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### Inclosure in No. 8.

*Proclamation of Dervish Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Imperial Forces.*

(Translation.)

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan having issued his august commands to the effect that a Census be taken of the whole population, Moslem and non-Moslem, of Upper Albania, both here and elsewhere, every effort has been made to carry out the Imperial wishes by achieving such an important result as a general enumeration of the inhabitants. It has, however, come to my notice that certain persons, intellectually incapable of appreciating the importance and value of such an undertaking (as is hereby implied), and entirely forgetful of their own humble position and of the duties which they, as faithful and loyal subjects, are bound to perform, have, in defiance of the Imperial commands, refused to have their names and those of their families inscribed in the Census Register, and are, in order to avoid the same, at present in hiding.

Inasmuch, then, as the exposure of such persons is to be considered a meritorious deed, I hereby publicly announce that henceforth, dating from the appearance of this Proclamation, any one giving secret intelligence to the chief officials engaged in the work of taking the Census as to the existence of individuals who are trying to evade the same will receive 100 piastres for every person so denounced, the incognito of all such informants, be they who they may, without respect of persons, being rigorously observed.

*Prisrend, July* 27, 1881.

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## No. 9.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)*

(No. 732.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 25, 1881.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I think it well to inclose, for your information, an independent Memorandum, which Sir Alfred Sandison made at the time of the Prime Minister's undertaking to cash at Constantinople such of the "havalés" offered to the British claimants as could not be cashed in the provinces.

When I wrote my despatch No. 725 of the 23rd instant, recounting my conversation with Saïd Pasha on this subject, I had not received Sir Alfred Sandison's Report.

The identity of our two accounts of what fell from His Highness sufficiently vouches the accuracy of both.

I have also the honour to inclose your Lordship copy of a letter I have written to each of the creditors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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### Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

*Memorandum.*

I BEG to place on record the statement made by the Prime Minister to your Excellency on Monday last, in reply to your observations respecting the discredit the Government Havalés had fallen into in the country.

After describing these to be as good as cheques or bills of exchange drawn by the Government, his Highness declared in the most unequivocal terms, that in case the "havalés" to be delivered to the British creditors were not paid by the provincial authorities, they shall be duly honoured at Constantinople.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

*Therapia, August* 24, 1881.

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### Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

*The Earl of Dufferin to M. Timoni.**

Sir, *Therapia, August* 23, 1881.

AS you are aware, for some time past I have been pressing on the Porte the settlement of your claim, and, after having obtained some days ago very positive verbal assurances, both from the Prime Minister, and from the Foreign Minister, and from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Ottoman Government would soon proceed to liquidate its obligations to you, I have now received the inclosed communication in writing from Assim Pasha

Yesterday I had the pleasure, in a personal interview, of acquainting you with its contents. Having ascertained, from what fell from yourself and the other creditors, that the Porte's offer of "havalés" was regarded with great suspicion and disfavour, I waited upon his Excellency Saïd Pasha and informed him that the proposal conveyed in his Excellency Assim Pasha's letter was considered as unsatisfactory by many of the claimants, was refused by some, and was cordially accepted by none. I added that, in promising me to pay these debts, I trusted the Porte had not entered into a delusive engagement.

His Highness, with great earnestness, replied that the engagement was not intended to be delusive; that the "havalés" would be duly cashed; and that, if they were not cashed in the provinces, they would be cashed at Constantinople.

You will understand that I cannot give you any advice as to whether or no you should accept the offer of the Porte, strengthened by this personal assurance of the Prime Minister. I merely acquaint you with what has taken place, in order that you may pursue whatever course you may think most conducive to your own interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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* A similar letter was addressed to Messrs. Cuppa, Brothers, Mr. John Summa, Mr. Matthew Dussi, M. Pietro Tedeschi, and M. Callinico.

No. 10.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)*

(No. 737.)

*Therapia, August* 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a second note I have received from the Sublime Porte, begging me to notice the British claimants to repair to the Treasury for the purpose of receiving delegations in satisfaction of their claims.

I have forwarded this communication to the gentlemen concerned, inclosed in a letter of which I subjoin a copy.

A somewhat similar letter has been addressed to Sir Peter Tait and Mr. Odoni.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*Note Verbale.*

*Sublime Porte, le* 23 *Août,* 1881.

POUR faire suite à sa note verbale du 18 de ce mois, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères prie l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique de vouloir bien inviter les sujets Anglais créanciers à se rendre au Département Impérial des Finances pou recevoir leurs délégations.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

*Secretary to the Embassy to M. Timoni.**

*Therapia, August* 25, 1881.

Sir,

WITH reference to his letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Dufferin to inclose to you herewith, for such action as you may deem proper in your own interests, copy of a further communication which his Excellency has received from the Sublime Porte in connection with your claims.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

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No. 11.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)*

(No. 746.)

*Constantinople, August* 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, on the subject of Colonel Blunt's position with regard to the gendarmerie force in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

*Consul Calvert to the Earl of Dufferin.*

*Adrianople, August* 16, 1881.

My Lord,

I VENTURE to recommend to your Lordship's attention the statements contained in the inclosed letter, which has been addressed to me by Colonel Walter F. Blunt, Inspector (and until lately fulfilling the duties of Commander as well) of the Adrianople gendarmerie.

* A similar letter was addressed to Messrs. Cuppa, Brothers, Mr. John Summa, Mr. Matthew Dussi, M. Pietro Tedeschi, and M. Callinico.



This force was organized, as your Lordship is no doubt aware, by the above-named officer, under circumstances of great difficulty, shortly after the cessation of the Russian occupation of this province.

The unwillingness of the Turkish Government to admit European officers to any real share in the modelling of their gendarmerie is proved by the fact that, since the spring of 1879, Colonel Blunt, whose only credentials on arriving here consisted of an order from Baker Pasha to form and take charge of a local gendarmerie, has not to the present day been confirmed in his functions of Inspector by the Ottoman War Office; and his position as towards the local authorities has, since the recent appointment of a native Commandant, become altogether anomalous.

In the absence both of instructions from head-quarters and of any document accrediting him to the local authorities, he has been compelled to cease from performing all official duties.

I take the liberty to suggest, with due deference to the superior judgment of your Lordship, that, for the more efficacious control of the working of the gendarmerie system (while conceding to Turkish *amour-propre* that active commands be held by native officers) three conditions, as regards the position of the European Inspecting Officer, are essential. The first is that the Inspector be armed with an Imperial Firman; secondly, that specific instructions be promulgated, defining with precision and clearness his various duties; and thirdly, that he should be invested with a higher rank than he now enjoys. A simple Colonel inspecting the gendarmerie is at the beck and call not only of the Governor-General, but of half-a-dozen civil functionaries, superior to him in the official hierarchy. This arrangement naturally results in a great loss of authority and prestige to the European Inspector, a disadvantage which by raising him one step, namely, to the rank of "Liva," or Brigadier-General, might be obviated.

As matters stand at present there is not the slightest use in the presence of Colonel Blunt, or of any other European gendarmerie officer, at Adrianople.

But were Colonel Blunt officially accredited to the provincial authorities, and invested with sufficient authority to control the management of the force to which he is now only nominally attached, a stop might be put to the abuses, traditional in the former zaptieh system, which are now creeping back into the gendarmerie, and which I shall probably be compelled soon to report in detail to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

*Colonel Blunt to Consul Calvert.*

*Adrianople,* , 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a brief statement regarding the gendarmerie of Adrianople.

It is only through the element of foreign officers that the evils of the old zaptieh system, which have been thoroughly recognized as one of the principal causes of the corrupt state of Turkey, can be extirpated. For over two years I organized and commanded a gendarmerie at Adrianople, and had ample opportunity of looking into the zaptieh principle. It had but one code—bribery, intrigue, and menace; the villagers compelled to accede to all demands under every sort of threat and fear of unfounded accusations; thieves and notorious blackguards shielded or set free according to the amount they could offer; men enlisted as zaptiehs, selected, not from trustworthy, but frequently from recognized bad characters, striking a sense of terror, in lieu of a feeling of security, among the population; the officers, mostly nominated through intrigue, many drunkards, thoroughly ignorant of discipline, and with hands even more open to backsheesh than their men.

My first efforts, after, as far as in my power, sifting away the *mauvais sujets* and reforming the corps, were directed against this crying evil, one of, if not the greatest, in Turkey. I so far succeeded that, within a few months, every town and village of the vilayet, almost without exception, made repeated applications for gendarmes, and not one case of menace or accepted bribery occurred; while continual instances of gendarmes refusing to take bribes were brought before me; in one instance as much as £ T. 20 was offered by a prisoner, who was at once denounced by the gendarme.

Reouf Pasha, who requested I should be appointed here, was Governor for the first eighteen months, and upheld and strengthened my whole course of action, officially stating,

on the eve of his departure, that the security of the vilayet had never been in so satisfactory a state. But the anger of the officials, on witnessing the partial and probably total overthrow of their favourite weapons—bribery and corruption, and their jealousy of the foreigner, broke out as soon as Reouf Pasha could no longer silence them. At first, every petty obstacle was thrown in my way, and at length (finding I had no Firman) a complete denial of my authority effectually put a stop to my endeavouring to continue my work. The vilayet authorities then applied for a Turkish officer to take command. I will cite only one among innumerable instances of determination to thwart me. I had repeatedly urged that the military (there being a large corps d'armée here) might be allowed to assist the gendarmes, who were heavily overworked from paucity of numbers, by taking some of the guards and other slight duties; and on one occasion, being anxious to concentrate a small force of gendarmes for the capture of some notorious brigands at Dedeagatch, I made a special application to Wessel Pasha, the Commander-in-chief. His reply was a most uncourteous refusal, coupled with the remark that "Soldiers were not made to assist zaptiehs." Yet the absolute necessity of such assistance was evident to them, for, on the arrival of the Turkish Commandant, he was at once informed that any military he might require to help the gendarmerie were at his disposal, and he immediately employed a large number. Zeni Bey, the new Commandant, seems a good officer, and expressed his determination to maintain the *statu quo* of the corps and its present organization in every respect, if he was left alone by the authorities. However, that he will not be permitted, is evident, for signs are not wanting that the European system is, if possible, to be blotted out, and the corrupt old one revived. Villagers are already complaining, and among the men the free use of the stick, which I had forbidden (wishing to raise their status), is again in vogue; while the regulations framed by me, and sanctioned by Reouf Pasha to be printed and promulgated in the force, are set aside.

From the experience of two years, and constant insight into the working of the old zaptieh system, I have no hesitation in stating that not only would the European system be productive of immense benefit to Turkey and the population generally, but that such is thoroughly recognized by the inhabitants; and Turkish officers themselves, who dare to state an opinion, unequivocally acknowledge it. At the same time, it will be an utter impossibility for any European officer to attempt the task unless the Firman (hitherto refused) officially investing him with full power be given to him.

I have been led to make this brief statement as one among the English gendarme officers who has been allowed the opportunity of looking thoroughly, and for a length of time, into the rottenness of the native system of maintaining security, and has been able to judge by practical experience of the working, and what would be the result, of the European system in Turkey, which result, as far as the requirements and sense of the population are concerned, could not have promised more satisfactorily; and as far as the unwillingness, with few exceptions, of the Turkish officials that such result should take place, nothing could have been proved more conclusively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER F. BLUNT,
*Inspector Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie, Vilayet of Adrianople.*

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No. 12.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

E
(No. 752.)

*Therapia, August* 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I TOOK an opportunity to-day at the Conference of again touching on the Servian Agrarian Law.

My French colleague said that his Government had written very strongly to their Agent at Belgrade to remonstrate against the unjust and harsh manner in which the law in question was being applied. The Austrian Ambassador informed me, but in the strictest confidence, that the same course had been pursued by his own Government. The German Chargé d'Affaires had not yet heard from his Government on the subject, but promised to let me know as soon as he did so. The Italian Ambassador had already told me that his Government was doing its very best to protect the Mahommedan subjects of Servia in the enjoyment of their rights. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires contented himself with minimizing the claims of the complainants to redress, though he admitted that they might to a certain degree be well founded.

The mooting of this subject at Constantinople has now, I think, served the purpose



which probably your Lordship intended. There can be no doubt that the Servian Agent here has learned vaguely that the matter has been preoccupying the attention of the Ambassadors, and has communicated the fact to his Government, who will be thus stimulated still further to control the proceedings of the Agrarian Commission.

Under these circumstances, I do not propose to revert to the subject, as I see that my colleagues, principally for personal reasons, are rather shy of dealing with the matter at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 13.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 756.)

*Therapia, August* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

THE news, as reported in my telegram No. 353 of the 25th instant, of the issue of an Iradé by the Sultan in reference to the Montenegrin question, has been confirmed. I have been informed that the general purport of the Iradé is as follows:—

"The Porte, wishing to come to an understanding with the Powers and with Montenegro in regard to that portion of the frontier still remaining undelimited, has instructed Riza Bey to put himself into communication with the Prince of Montenegro, and to ascertain from His Highness what may be his minimum demand."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S. *August* 30.—I think it right to add that, although all the Ambassadors yesterday afternoon had been convinced of the truth of the foregoing statement, which is in the papers this morning, the Prime Minister told Sir A. Sandison, whom he met at the Palace, that "the Iradé about Montenegro was still being delayed by the Sultan."

It is possible His Majesty may have acted in this matter independently of his Ministers.

D.

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No. 14.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 109.)

*Belgrade, August* 23, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker expressing his opinion that a difficulty may arise in consequence of the termination of the period of three years within which, by Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, the Turco-Servian Vacouf Commission was directed to complete its labours.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Baker raises the question whether the powers of the Commission did not legally cease to exist on the 13th ultimo, by effluxion of time.

If I rightly understand the case, although the Commission owes its origin to the Treaty of Berlin, it nevertheless holds its appointment and likewise its powers directly from the Turkish and Servian Governments, and not from the Powers who signed the Treaty. The legal status of the Commission must depend on the appointments which the Commissioners hold. My Turkish colleague regards the Commission as one *ad hoc*. He tells me that to the best of his belief the appointments of the Commissioners were not for any specified time, and that, if it be so, there can hardly be a question of the termination of their powers by effluxion of time. He also observes that not one of the Commissions appointed under the Treaty of Berlin for the settlement of the Vacouf property has closed its labours, and that that for Montenegro has not yet even been appointed.

Independently of the above considerations, and looking to the text of the Treaty alone, it is not clear to me that there need be a cessation of the powers of the Commission by effluxion of time; for there is no provision which states that the Commission is to be named for a limited period of three years, after which its powers are to cease. The Article merely provides that "a Turco-Servian Commission shall be appointed to settle, within a period of three years," &c. The Commission, owing chiefly to the absence of one or the other of the Commissioners, has not yet got through all the work mapped out for it

in the Treaty, but that would appear to me to be a question separate from the one of its existence as a Commission.

For fear, however, that I have taken an incorrect view of the matter, I have thought it best to place Mr. Baker's despatch before your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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Inclosure in No. 14.

*Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Locock.*

*Nisch, August* 13, 1881.

Sir,

I VENTURE to draw your attention to a question which will probably arise as to the cessation, by effluxion of time, of the Turco-Servian Vacoufs Commission.

2. The second sentence of Article XXXIX of the Berlin Treaty prescribes three years as the period within which the Vacoufs Commission shall complete its labours. If this period of three years was intended to run from the date of the Berlin Treaty, then it expired exactly a month ago, and the question arises whether the powers of the Commission under Article XXXIX of the Berlin Treaty have not ceased to exist, although it is far from having arrived at the completion of its labours.

3. M. Rayevitch, the Servian member of the Commission, contends that the three years run from the date of the appointment of the Commission, or at all events from the day on which the Servian Skuptchina accepted the Berlin Treaty as binding on Servia, although no party to it. But this contention appears unsound; for (1) either Turkey or Servia might have delayed indefinitely the appointment of a Commission, and the period of three years would have had commencement; (2) in accepting the Treaty of Berlin, Servia accepted all its provisions, including the one in question as to the three years. Such acceptation was not conditional on any changing of dates.

4. The labours of the Commission have been from time to time suspended by reason of the absence from Nisch of one, or other, or both of its members, and, consequently, such labours are far from complete. The question therefore seems to arise as to what is necessary for enlarging the period of three years. As regards the parties themselves, it would appear to depend on the wording of their Commissioners' full powers; but as regards the Signatories to the Berlin Treaty, it would appear that the time thereby prescribed can only be enlarged by a Protocol thereto, or some other document assented to by the Signatory Powers.

5. As it seems probable that differences of opinion may arise between the two Commissioners as to the matters submitted to them under the Berlin Treaty, I have deemed it right to thus draw your attention to this question, which would probably be more easily settled before than after any dispute may arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

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No. 15.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 6.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)

*Belgrade, August* 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE it from a source worthy of every credit that Khalid Bey, having called two days ago on M. Pirochanatz, the President of the Council of Ministers, and expressed himself in the sense that the way to arrive at a just and satisfactory arrangement with the Turkish dispossessed landlords would be to change the Agrarian Law itself, M. Pirochanatz informed him that, if Turkey and the Powers were prepared to obtain the withdrawal of the law by the use of material force, in that case the law would doubtless be withdrawn, but otherwise never. The conversation then turned on a better application of the law, a question which M. Pirocharatz professed himself quite ready to discuss.

In a conversation which I had to-day with Khalid Bey, I observed that his Excellency had apparently renounced the hope that the Servian Government would be induced to effect an alteration in the law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 16.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 6.)

(No. 112.)

*Belgrade, August* 26, 1881.

My Lord,

CALLING on my French colleague, Count de Caneaux, yesterday, I found he was engaged with four dispossessed Turkish landlords who had been sent to him by the Ottoman Envoy here, and by his invitation I was present during a part of the interview.

Two out of the four were those I had myself previously seen, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 99 of the 28th ultimo.

I found that the questions being put to them referred to the nature of the tenure under which the estates of themselves and their neighbours were farmed by the peasantry, and the rights which the latter possessed independently of the will of the landlords; also the length of time the lands had been in their own possession, the manner in which they had been originally acquired, and the wording of their title-deeds, some of which were lying on the table.

M. de Caneaux complained to me of the great difficulty he had experienced (one which I had myself previously found) of obtaining clear and straightforward answers, especially on the precise nature of the different forms of tenure. In a few words they may, I think, be summed up thus: the "Gospodarlik" estates held by the Mussulman landlords themselves from the Sultan as lord-paramount are almost unknown; on their own estates, and on all those of which they have practical knowledge, the ownership is real, and the free right of the proprietor to change the rent or to eject the tenant at will is unquestioned; in point of fact ejectments are very rare. The farm usually descends from father to son without interruption, but it sometimes happens that a laborious father begets an idle good-for-nothing son, and the landlord has no scruple in ejecting such an one. Every landlord holds his title-deeds. Some of these were obtained by purchase, most of them by inheritance, and many of these last bear dates 200 years back. As to how they were obtained at that remote time it is impossible for them to say with certitude, unless the title-deed itself specifies the mode in which it was acquired.

I should add that translations are to be made in the French Legation of some of the title-deeds.

The repeated statement of these proprietors, which are confidently reiterated in the Turkish Legation, that the existence of "Gospodarlik" or feudal estates, except in very rare instances, is merely a myth of the Servian Agarian Law, has again struck me as being so opposed to the statement of Mr. Vice-Consul Baker in his Report of the 23rd February, 1880, that I have instructed him to furnish me with further information on this point, and if possible to obtain particulars, with translations of any "Gospodarlik" title-deeds that he may manage to see.

The point is an important one to decide before correctly gauging the grievances of the Ottoman landlords, or justly estimating the proceedings of the Agrarian Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 17.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 6.)

(No. 113.)

*Belgrade, August* 28, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed translation of another telegram which has this day been addressed by Suleiman Zumbrovic, of Leskovatz, to the Representatives of the Powers parties to the Berlin Treaty, begging that a decision may be come to, and a Commission constituted under the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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Inclosure in No. 17.

*Suliman Bey to the Representatives of England, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Turkey.*

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

*Leskovatz, August* $\frac{16}{28}$, 1881.

ACCORDING to my protest against the proceedings of the Servian authorities and the Agrarian Commission please come to a decision. The Commission are working without us. We are undone. I implore that the Commission may be constituted under the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Answer prepaid.

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No. 18.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 114.)

*Belgrade, August* 28, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that more precise instructions than had previously been issued have lately been received at the French Legation on the subject of the complaints of the dispossessed Turkish landlords, and that Count de Canclaux, who has just returned from a short absence, is evidently prepared to go carefully into the question.

Kalid Bey informs me that the present relations of Russia with Servia were recently alleged at St. Petersburgh as a reason which would prevent the Russian Representative at Belgrade from taking any special step in the matter, but that he would, nevertheless, be instructed not to separate himself from his colleagues in case of any combined action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 19.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 115.)

*Belgrade, August* 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a Preliminary Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker on the complaints of some of the Turkish proprietors at Nisch with regard to the Agrarian Law and the mode of its application.

The facts and observations which it contains are the result of an interview which Mr. Baker had with a deputation from the Turkish proprietors whose seals were attached to the petition addressed to your Lordship, at which interview he handed to them Lord Tenterden's reply.

I have told Mr. Baker that, in the absence of any instructions from your Lordship, I do not at the present moment feel authorized to instruct him to visit Prokouplia and Leskovatz, as he suggests that he should be authorized to do, in order to obtain further information from the Servian Commissioners and from the Turkish landlords.

I cannot but fear that the openly-proclaimed accusations by the Mussulmans against the Commissioners, and their appeal to the Powers, have produced a certain irritation in the minds of the Commissioners, and it is not altogether improbable that they might resent such a special visit of inquiry as an act of interference. Moreover, whatever they may have to say on their side has doubtless been already said to the Commission of Control, and will probably, in one way or another, be brought to the knowledge of the Representatives here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

*Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Locock.*

*Nisch, August* 26, 1881.

Sir,

I DULY received your despatch of the 2nd instant, inclosing a despatch from Lord Tenterden, acknowledging the receipt of a protest addressed to the Foreign Office by certain Turkish land proprietors residing in and near Nisch against the Servian Agrarian Law and its administration, and instructing me to hand Lord Tenterden's despatch to the signatories of the said protest, and to report on the subject-matter thereof.

2. In accordance with such instructions, I have handed Lord Tenterden's despatch to a deputation of six of the signatories to the protest, who waited on me for the purpose of receiving it.

3. The members of the deputation above alluded to expressed to me in indignant terms their ideas of the injustice of the Agrarian Law and of its administration. They allege that the Law itself is an infraction of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, so far as they are concerned, inasmuch as they wish to fix their residence outside the Principality, and consequently are, by the Treaty of Berlin, enabled to retain their real property, and have it farmed or managed by third parties, and that they are not bound to enfranchise their tenants by surrendering their seigniorial rights in accordance with the terms of the Agrarian Law.

4. The principal complaints of the petitioners (signatories to the protest) against the administration of the Agrarian Law are grounded on sections 13, 21, and 27 of such Law (*vide* translation inclosed in my despatch to Mr. Gould dated the 14th September, 1880). They allege that many Turkish landlords entered into private contracts with their tenants (under section 23), and tendered such contracts to the Commission for registration, and that the Commission, in breach of section 13, which provides that such contracts shall not be annulled on any pretence, annulled them, and proceeded to deal with the subject-matters thereof under the last paragraph of section 21.

5. The petitioners further allege that, after the Commission had annulled the private contracts concluded under section 13, they considered it useless to take any further action under the Agrarian Law, and consequently omitted to present their claims under section 21; and that the period for presenting claims prescribed by that section having expired, the Commission has proceeded to adjudicate *ex parte* on the claims of the tenants, and that its decisions have been uniformly unfair to the landlords.

6. The petitioners also complain that tenants in a position to pay in cash the compensation awarded have been allowed by the Commission (in ostensible pursuance of section 27) five years for payment of the compensation in annual instalments.

7. The current month being the month of Ramazan, the great majority of Turks have refrained from all business, and I have thus been unable to obtain from them details and evidence of their complaints; and the President of the Ordinary Commission is at present in Leskovatz, and the Extraordinary Commission is at Prokouplia, and neither the one nor the other has been in Nisch during the current month, and neither is expected in Nisch for many weeks. I have, therefore, had no opportunity of seeking from them any information on, or explanation of, the subject-matter of the petitioners' complaints; but the Prefect of this Department assures me that such complaints are groundless, though he is unable to give me any information on which I could properly conclude that his opinion is well founded. Under these circumstances, I feel bound to defer my definite Report until I shall have had better opportunities of ascertaining the facts of both sides.

8. As the Commissioners are at Leskovatz and Prokouplia, as many of the petitioners have their residences or properties there, I would beg to suggest the advisability of my visiting those two towns for the purpose of prosecuting the investigations necessary for a full Report on the matters complained of by the petitioners.

9. In conclusion, I would beg to say that I see nothing to lead me to modify my opinion of the Agrarian Law expressed in paragraphs 7, 8, and 10 of my despatch of the 23rd February, 1880, addressed to Mr. Louis Gould. Indeed, with regard to the deferring of the payment of the landlords' compensation for enfranchisement, I am strongly of opinion that it works unjustly towards the landlords, and that either the tenants or the Government should make arrangements for the landlords to receive their compensation in immediate cash. As such compensation would be a first charge on the enfranchised land, there would be no practical difficulty in raising the amount by the tenants or the Government, though the Mussulman proprietors would naturally be unwilling to accept the security themselves, seeing that for four years they have been unable to collect any rents,

and that it is not more probable that they would be able to collect the interest and sinking fund instalments due on the mortgage charge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

*Mr. Locock to Vice-Consul Baker.*

*Belgrade, August* 29, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE read with interest the Preliminary Report which you have addressed to me, under date of the 26th instant, on the complaints of Turkish landowners against the Servian Agrarian Law and its administration, and am transmitting a copy of it to Earl Granville.

With regard to your suggestion that you should visit Prokouplia and Leskovatz for the purpose of prosecuting investigations necessary for a fuller Report, I have to inform you that, in the absence of instructions from Earl Granville, I do not at the present moment feel authorized to instruct you to proceed to those two places with that object. I cannot but fear that the complaints which have been openly brought by the Turkish landlords against the Servian Commissioners, and their appeal to the foreign Powers, must have given rise to a certain amount of irritation in the minds of the Commissioners, and it is not impossible that an attempt on your part to make such an investigation might be represented by them as an act of interference in the internal administration of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 20.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)*

(No. 116.)

*Belgrade, August* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

HAVING obtained an interview to-day with M. Pirochanatz, President of the Council of Ministers, and at this moment in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I had a long conversation with him on the Agrarian Law and the complaints of the Ottoman landowners in the newly-acquired Servian territory.

For brevity's sake, I will confine myself to reporting the part taken by M. Pirochanatz in the conversation, without troubling your Lordship with the questions and remarks on my side which elicited his Excellency's replies and explanations.

M. Pirochanatz expressed his readiness to give me every assistance in arriving at an exact idea of the object and effect of the Law. The difficulty of properly understanding it arose partly from the defectiveness of its phraseology, especially in the authorized French translation, and partly from the circumstance that it had been somewhat hurriedly amended while passing through the Skuptchina. But he would beg me to note the short epitome which he would give me of the scope of the Law and the description of properties with which it dealt.

The cultivated land is classed by the Law in three categories:—

1. Seigniorial farms ("gospodarski"). Over these the landlord's rights are small, and those of the tenant great. The rent is only one-ninth part of the produce, and it cannot be raised: nor can the tenant be evicted.

2. Colonized farms ("tchifliks"). These are farms under cultivation by tenants regularly settled on them, possessing certain acquired rights by reason of the houses and farm-buildings which they have constructed, and the improvement which they have effected in the soil; but not enjoying, at least by recognized right, fixity of tenure or of rent.

3. Uncolonized lands. The peasants who reside on these are not tenants, but day labourers, who cultivate the land for the proprietors, but have no vested interest in it. The proprietorship of these lands is perfect.

The Agrarian Law does not touch this last class of land in any way. The Mussulman proprietor can deal with it as he likes, and exercise all the rights secured to him by the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.



The Law deals only with the first two classes.

Over the seigniorial farms ("gospodarski") the lord loses all right; while the tenant becomes its absolute proprietor on payment of an indemnity to the lord.

With regard to the colonized farms ("tchifliks"), the proprietor has the right either to keep them or to dispose of them; but he can use this right only on certain conditions: to the tenants, he must deliver up their houses, with the farm-buildings; and to each poll-tax payer, he must assign 5 morgins of land. For the latter, however, he will receive payment. In case the dispossessed tenant has been ten years on the estate, the price is a low one, fixed by the Law itself. In case he has been less than ten years on the estate, the price is determined according to the current local value.

Such, in simple outline, was the Agrarian Law, and his Excellency was prepared to maintain that it was, on the whole, perfectly just and necessary.

On the termination of the late war, the Government found itself confronted with the following state of things in the annexed territory:—The cultivated lands were in the hands of tenants (Christians) who had before the war been paying one-tenth of the produce to the Sultan, besides one-ninth to the Mussulman lord: these were the "gospodarski" estates. Others, without fixity of tenure, were paying larger proportions by way of rent, and had therefore less legal interest in the soil. All had their houses and their various farm-buildings, which they had erected with their own hands. The present productive powers of the land were also in most instances the result of their own labour and that of their fathers and forefathers. Each year, moreover, the proprietor was bound to give them from 20 to 30 okes of seed. Here were acquired rights in the soil, some of them just as real as those of the lord, and the Government could not ignore them; neither could it allow a system to continue to exist in a corner of the State which was found nowhere else in the Principality, and was not in harmony with present Western civilization: hence the Agrarian Law. Its object is to separate the rights of the landlords from those of the occupiers and tillers of the soil. Where the rights of the occupier are proportionally the greater, as in the "gospodarski" estates, and where the lords have no power of eviction, there the ownership is passed over to the occupier on payment of a compensation to the lord for the loss of the benefits which he enjoyed; but where the interest of the tenant is inferior to that of his landlord, the latter is secured in the full enjoyment of his proprietory rights; while the restricted interest of the tenant in the whole farm is extinguished on receiving a certain indemnity.

His Excellency was not, however, prepared to affirm that the Law was perfect. In some parts it even incorrectly expressed the intention of its framers. He might even admit that it was not in every point fair and equitable to the Turkish landlords. But it was far too late now to talk of its repeal, as had been done by the proprietors. It had already been in operation for eighteen months. In two out of the four districts to which its application was limited its task had been already accomplished, and apparently all parties were satisfied. Scarcely a complaint had reached him. It would be unjust as well as impolitic to change the Law now, and pass another by which the tenants in the two remaining districts would receive a less favourable treatment, and yet this is what was asked for.

There was no real reason why the Law, which had given satisfaction in the districts of Vranja and Pirot, should occasion such complaints in those of Nisch and Prokouplia. The fault did not lie in the Law itself. The Servian authorities who were intrusted with its application were partly responsible for its failure. The choice of Commissioners had not at the beginning been in every instance happy. In one instance there had been gross neglect of duty. There had likewise been charges of corruption. But on the other side there had been intermeddling by professional lawyers who had undertaken for 5 and even 10 per cent. of the proceeds to conduct the cases of the proprietors.

These were the men who had been appealing to the Representatives and trying to bring the influence of Europe to bear. The Turkish Representative, his Excellency also feared, had encouraged the agitation. None of this had happened in Vranja and Pirot. There the landlords had managed their own affairs, and had done so without any of this ill feeling being excited; for they personally knew their tenants and their circumstances. Instead of denouncing the Law as unjust they had in many instances granted to the tenants still more favourable terms than those of the Law itself. For instance, there were cases in which the 5 morgins of land had been given to the tenant without any payment whatever.

But though the Law could not be changed, much might be done to insure its being applied in such a way as to satisfy the landlords, or, at all events, remove just cause of complaint.

Some of its provisions might possibly even be slightly modified in effect, especially

in those points where the Law itself was not quite clear. His attention had been already called to Article XLII, and the power therein reserved to the Ministers of Justice and Finance not only to supply detailed instructions for the execution of the Law, but also to supply any deficiences which might become apparent, and to explain the points which might not be sufficiently clear.

There were one or two provisions with regard to which he thought this power might be advantageously used. For instance, he personally was of opinion that the State might undertake to effect the immediate payments to the Turkish proprietors, which payments it could recover from the tenants by means of the periodical instalments provided in the Law. His colleagues were also of this opinion, and the point would be submitted to the Prince on his return. Then he also allowed that it was hard and inequitable that the landlords should lose all right to arrears of rent which had occurred during the war in those cases where the land had been actually under cultivation by the tenant. This would also form a matter for consideration.

In the meantime, he had himself given stringent orders that the Law should be applied in the most favourable way possible. A Judge was now at the head of the Nisch Commission in whom he had perfect confidence, and he really hoped that all cause for complaint would speedily cease.

His Excellency begged me to put the matter in its true light in London, and to give his Government my support. I assured his Excellency that whatever was just and equitable would have my support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 21.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 31, 1881.

IT is right I should mention that there is a feeling in the minds of all my colleagues, with whom I have spoken on the subject, that the cause of the Mussulman landowners is being overworked by the Ottoman Envoy here, Kalid Bey, and that there is a suspicion that the idea of these protests and telegrams from the proprietors, or rather from their agents, to the foreign Governments and foreign Representatives originated in the Turkish Legation.

I confess to sharing the impression. The zeal of Kalid Bey is well-nigh boundless. His incredulity in the protestations or good intentions of any Servian Government is apparently absolute. He is convinced that, without the active interference of the European Powers, the Mussulmans will never obtain justice, and inclines to the opinion that that interference should take the form of an international Commission, or of a Conference of the Ambassadors at Constantinople. It is his firm belief that the Powers will allow themselves to be put off by the Servian Government with fair promises, and that those promises will never be carried out.

The contents of the telegram from the agent of upwards of 3,000 Mussulmans to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople were apparently known in the Turkish Legation here before that telegram reached its destination, and the facts contained in the protest to your Lordship minutely tallied with what I had heard from the Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch a few days before I received a copy of that protest from your Lordship. Further, Kalid Bey, when speaking to me of the protest, pledged his word for the perfect accuracy of its contents.

Suliman Zumbravich, of Leskovatz, who has been telegraphing to the foreign Representatives here, is an Advocate, and was formerly in Turkish employ. In his last telegram he informed the Representatives that their reply was prepaid. I do not imagine that any of them availed themselves of the facility thus afforded them to communicate with him, but a telegram was dispatched from the Ottoman Legation the same day to him to the following effect:—

"Continue to send protests, and to decline all relations with the Agrarian Commission."

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 22.

E *Mr. Sanderson to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that about ten days ago a letter was received at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs inquiring whether, if Count Andrassy were to pay a visit to Sinaïa, he would be received by the King, and an affirmative answer was returned.

Count Andrassy, accompanied by the Roumanian Consul-General at Pesth, arrived at Sinaïa on the evening of the 29th instant; he had been met at Predeal by one of the King's Aides-de-camp, and was received at the railway station at Sinaïa by M. Rosetti, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and by Prince Demetri Ghika, President of the Senate, a Royal carriage being placed at his disposal. Count Andrassy dined with their Majesties the King and Queen the same evening, and is likely to remain at Sinaïa for two or three days.

This visit has given rise to much remark, occurring as it does at a time when there is a strong divergence of views between Austria and Roumania on the Danube question and when the newspapers of the two countries are publishing violent articles, a part of the Roumanian press having lately been especially bitter against the Hungarians as apart from the Austrians; moreover, M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, and M. Statesco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, are both absent on leave. It is variously surmised that Count Andrassy will endeavour to obtain a change in the attitude of Roumania on the Danube question; that Roumania is to be invited to join the German and Austrian Alliance, and so forth. The "Romanul," the Government paper, has not touched on the question; such of the other newspapers as have done so are by no means favourable to an Austrian alliance at present, and not long since M. Rosetti stated to me that he had no desire to see Roumania enter into an alliance with either Austria or Russia.

Baron Salzberg, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, informs me that he has neither official nor private information on the subject of this visit, but in view of the friendship which has existed for some years between the King of Roumania and Count Andrassy, it appears to him likely that the latter is endeavouring to smooth over existing differences without having any regular mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

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No. 23.

*Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.*—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, September* 6.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 21 *Août*, 1881.

LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a déjà été saisi, à plusieurs reprises, de la question des propriétés des Lieux-Saints d'Orient, sises en Roumanie. Je crois devoir cette fois encore en résumer ici les phases principales. La Conférence tenue à Paris pour la réorganisation des Principautés Danubiennes avait réglé, dès le 30 Juillet, 1858, dans son Protocole No. 13, la marche à suivre pour donner à ce différend une solution équitable. Elle accordait aux parties intéressées délai d'un an pour s'entendre entre elles au moyen d'un compromis. A l'expiration de ce délai, on devait statuer par un arbitrage dont les modalités avaient été indiquées avec un soin minutieux.

De son côté, le Gouvernement Roumain, tout en paraissant se conformer en principe à cette décision, s'attacha à rendre, en fait, l'entente irréalisable, et bientôt après l'Administration du Prince Couza s'appropria de force les revenus des Lieux-Saints.

Ces faits motivèrent en 1864 la réunion à Constantinople d'une Conférence des Représentants des Grandes Puissances, laquelle déclara non avenues en droit les mesures arbitraires prises par le Gouvernement du Prince Couza, en enjoignant à ce dernier d'avoir à s'abstenir de tout acte d'aliénation des propriétés en cause. Elle décida en même temps que les revenus en seraient versés dans une caisse spéciale placée sous la surveillance des Puissances, et institua une Commission d'Enquête chargée de faciliter à la Conférence l'accomplissement de son mandat. Par contre, le

Gouvernement du Prince Couza proposa, à cette époque, de remplacer la caisse speciale par un emprunt pour lequel il venait d'obtenir l'autorisation des Chambres et nomma un Délégué special pour soumettre à la Commission la base juridique de ses réclamations.

Sur ces entrefaites, la déposition du Prince Couza eut lieu, et la Conférence se sépara sans avoir achevé son œuvre. L'Administration Roumaine continua depuis lors à encaisser à son profit exclusif les revenus dont elle s'était emparée, et procéda même à plusieurs reprises à des actes d'aliénation contre lesquels les Lieux-Saints firent parvenir des protestations formelles aux Grandes Puissances par l'entremise de la Sublime Porte. De même, les Patriarches Orthodoxes d'Orient exposèrent les conséquences de cette situation dans un Mémoire que leur Délégué présenta au Congrès de Berlin. Les observations auxquelles ce document donna lieu au sein de la Haute Assemblée sont consignées dans le Protocole No. 15, qui mentionne que son Altesse le Président, après avoir constaté la nécessité pour le différend en question de contrôle des Grandes Puissances ajoute, "avec l'assentiment de la Haute Assemblée, qu'il sera noté au Protocole que les Représentants des Puissances sont prêts à référer à leurs Gouvernements à ce sujet, et à recommander à leur sollicitude l'examen de cette affaire, soit sur les anciennes bases, soit sur celles qui seront le résultat des délibérations du Congrès."

On doit se rappeler également qu'à la date du 19 Novembre, 1879, le Roi de Roumanie adressa aux Patriarches de l'Orient une lettre ci-jointe en copie déclarant que Sa Majesté venait de recommander toute particulièrement à l'attention et à l'étude de son Gouvernement la question dont il s'agit. Cette lettre encouragea les Patriarches à envoyer à Bucarest des Délégués spéciaux, chargés de rechercher les bases d'une entente directe. Mais cette démarche eut le même sort que celles faites précédemment; la note verbale, ci-incluse, remise par ces Délégués à M. Boerescu, en est la preuve. En effet, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie leur déclara à cette époque que, si un différend existe à ce sujet le Gouvernement Roumain ne pourrait traiter avec les Eglises d'Orient qu'à la condition que leurs réclamations soient présentées par la voie diplomatique, et ce en premier lieu par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

A la suite de cette déclaration, les sollicitations des Patriarches auprès de la Sublime Porte en faveur d'une action diplomatique devinrent de plus en plus pressantes, et le Gouvernement Impérial se trouve aujourd'hui dans le cas de revenir sur la question, qui, à ses yeux, ne saurait subir un retard plus prolongé. Votre Excellence concevra, en effet, aisément qu'il serait difficile au Gouvernement Impérial de rester indifférent en face de la détresse et des pertes immenses que les mesures du Gouvernement Roumain ont valu aux établissements religieux placés sous la protection de Sa Majesté Impériale notre Auguste Maître.

Nous pensons donc que l'essentiel est qu'une solution équitable soit donnée sans plus de retard au conflit qui a surgi entre l'Administration Roumaine et les Lieux-Saints de l'Orient, et nous avons la conviction que les Puissances, dans leur sentiment de justice et d'impartialité, partagent notre avis à cet égard. Bien des années se sont écoulées depuis que la décision de la Conférence de Paris a subordonné à ce grand procès au verdict de la justice internationale et qu'elle en a réglé le mode de solution. A son tour, le Congrès de Berlin a sanctionné le fait par l'assentiment unanime des Puissances aux principes précédemment posés. Se plaçant donc sur ce terrain, le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis que l'expérience n'ayant que trop démontré l'inefficacité d'un compromis pour établir l'entente, il ne resterait plus qu'à procéder par voie de l'arbitrage. Le Gouvernement Roumain, lui même, n'aurait, l'espérons-nous, rien à objecter à notre manière de voir, d'autant plus que, je le répète, la question a déjà reçu la double consécration de la Conférence de 1858 et du Congrès de Berlin.

Il ne s'agirait, en définitive, pour le Cabinet de Bucarest, que de donner suite à une procédure dont il ne conteste pas le caractère obligatoire, et qui est destinée à hâter le réglement d'un différend dont il doit être tout aussi soucieux que les autres parties.

Vous voudrez bien soumettre les considérations qui précèdent à l'appréciation bienveillante de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, et prier sa Seigneurie de vouloir bien autoriser le Ministre de la Grande Bretagne à Bucarest à se concerter avec ses collègues, MM. les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, pour inviter le Gouvernement Roumain à nommer ses arbitres et à convenir du lieu de leur réunion, ainsi que de l'époque où l'arbitrage devra commencer et prendre fin.



Vous pouvez, si M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères le désire, donner à sa Seigneurie lecture et copie de la présente dépêche.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

*Prince Charles of Roumania to their Highnesses the Patriarchs.*

Très Saints Pères, vos Béatitudes, *Bucarest, le 7/19 Novembre*, 1879.

VOTRE lettre du 27 Juillet dernier m'a transmis les félicitations de l'Eglise d'Orient sur le rang auquel la nation Roumaine, grâce à la protection de la Divine Providence, s'est élevée par sa participation à la guerre.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir remercier ici vos Saintetés et Béatitudes de ces félicitations envers mon pays et ma personne, et de vous exprimer en même temps combien les vœux que vous formez pour moi et ma famille sont précieux à mon cœur.

J'ai été vivement touché du tableau de la situation pénible où se trouvent, par défaut de ressources, les établissements appartenant aux Saints-Lieux d'Orient et consacrés au culte divin ou à des œuvres de bienfaisance.

Mais, à cette occasion, je ne saurais m'abstenir de constater à quel point ont été regrettables les difficultés élevées par les très Saints Pères et leurs Béatitudes vos prédécesseurs contre les décisions jadis émanées du Gouvernement Roumain.

Ces décisions, conformes au droit et à la volonté des bienheureux fondateurs des monastères dédiés, constituaient une solution juste et définitive.

Le pouvoir, qui les a prises, était animé du désir de continuer l'œuvre des bienheureux fondateurs et de venir en aide aux églises et aux établissements de bienfaisance des Lieux-Saints pour l'accomplissement de leur pieuse et charitable mission.

Vos Saintetés et Béatitudes peuvent être persuadées que je m'associe complètement à cette pensée et que je suis également désireux de voir prospérer, sous l'égide de la Roumanie, ces églises et ces institutions, afin de maintenir et de resserrer encore, s'il est possible, les liens qui unissent l'Eglise d'Orient et mon pays.

J'ai recommandé tout particulièrement à l'attention et à l'étude de mon Gouvernement la question qui est traitée dans votre lettre du 27 Juillet.

En vous donnant l'assurance qu'elle sera examinée avec la plus grande sollicitude, j'aime à vous renouveler l'expression des sentiments d'attachement avec lesquels je suis, très Saints Pères,

De vos Saintétés et Béatitudes le très dévoué,
(Signé) CHARLES.

(Signé) N. CRETZOULESCO, *Ministre du Culte.*

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Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

*The Delegates of Holy Places to the Roumanian Foreign Minister.*

*Bucarest, le 8 Mai*, 1881.

A L'AUDIENCE à laquelle nous avons eu l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence les lettres de leurs Saintetés les Patriarches et les Chefs des Saints-Lieux d'Orient et vous exposer de vive voix le but de notre mission, votre Excellence a bien voulu nous faire en résumé les déclarations suivantes :—

"Le Gouvernement Roumain ne peut entrer en relation avec les Délégués des Saints-Lieux d'Orient, car, d'après lui, il n'existe de différend relativement aux couvents dédiés. Mais, en admettant même, comme les Saints-Lieux le prétendent, qu'une question pareille existât, le Gouvernement Roumain ne saurait également traiter avec les Eglises d'Orient, si leurs prétensions n'étaient présentées officiellement par la voie diplomatique et tout d'abord par le Gouvernement Ottoman. Leurs Saintetés les Patriarches, avez-vous ajouté, ne sont ni Souverains temporels, ni Chefs de Gouvernement."

Alors déjà nous avons eu l'honneur de soumettre à l'appréciation de votre Excellence les observations qui nous étaient suggérées par votre déclaration officielle;

actuellement ayant reçu les instructions nécessaires de la part de nos Chefs, nous croyons de notre devoir de vous donner les explications suivantes :

Rien ne pouvait étonner les Eglises d'Orient autant que la déclaration officielle de votre Excellence que, d'après le Gouvernement Roumain, il n'existe pas de question des couvents dédiés. Car, d'une part, les Grandes Puissances garantes ont non seulement reconnu l'existence réelle de ce différend, mais elles n'ont même pas dédaigné d'en régler la marche et d'en déterminer le mode de solution par le 13e Protocole de la Conférence de Paris et le 15e du Congrès de Berlin. D'autre part, le Gouvernement Roumain reconnaissait antérieurement déjà l'existence de ce différend et traitait avec les Saints-Lieux pour en trouver une solution, et actuellement encore Son Altesse Royale le Prince de Roumanie, par sa lettre en date du 7/19 Novembre, 1879, approuvée par le Conseil des Ministres et responsive à celle de leurs Saintetés les Patriarches, reconnait aussi l'existence de cette question et porte à la connaissance de nos mandants qu'il "l'a recommandée tout particulièrement à l'attention et à l'étude de son Gouvernement."

C'est par suite de cette lettre de Son Altesse Royale que leurs Saintetés les Patriarches et les Chefs des communautés religieuses ont pris la décision d'envoyer des Délégués spéciaux dans le but de négocier avec le Gouvernement Roumain la régularisation de ce différend.

Notre mission, Excellence, ne porte aucun caractère diplomatique. Leurs Saintetés les Patriarches n'ont nullement la prétention, comme votre Excellence a supposé, de traiter avec un autre Gouvernement, comme Souverains temporels ou comme Chefs de Gouvernement. Les Saints-Lieux, avant de recourir aux moyens qui leurs sont donnés par les Traités Internationaux pour défendre leurs droits, ont cru de leur devoir de s'adresser directement au Gouvernement Roumain et lui proposer, par notre intermédiaire, la solution de ce différend regrettable au moyen d'une entente directe.

En agissant de la sorte dans une question qui a pour but la révendication des droits sacrés, méconnus aujourd'hui par le Gouvernement Roumain, leurs Saintetés les Patriarches et les Chefs des communautés religieuses croient avoir fait non seulement tout ce que leur imposait le caractère sacré dont ils sont revêtus, mais aussi les traditions du passé auxquelles ils se conforment.

Du reste, notre démarche actuelle n'est pas exclue par les Traités Européens, et son omission aurait pu faire croire, peut-être, qui les Saints-Lieux n'appréciaient pas à leur juste valeur les sentiments conciliants du Gouvernement Roumain, lorsque surtout la lettre responsive de Son Altesse Royale à celle de leurs Saintetés les Patriarches et des Chefs des communautés religieuses renfermé l'assurance formelle que la question "sera examinée par le Gouvernement Roumain avec la plus grande sollicitude."

Votre Excellence a fait aussi mention d'une subvention de 60,000 fr. qui a été votée dernièrement par les Chambres Roumaines dans le but de venir en aide aux Eglises Grecques d'Orient. Nous ne croyons pas opportun de discuter un sujet qui n'a aucun rapport avec notre question, et reste par conséquent complètement étranger à la mission qui nous a été confiée.

En portant à la connaissance de votre Excellence les explications sus-énoncées, nous espérons qu'elles parviendront à dissiper toute espèce de malentendu probable, et que le Gouvernement appréciera l'esprit de conciliation qui les a dictées, et le but de notre mission actuelle.

Nous espérons aussi que votre Excellence voudra bien nous faire connaître, aussitôt que possible, l'opinion du Gouvernement Roumain à ce sujet, afin que nous ne prolongions pas inutilement notre séjour dans la capitale Roumaine.

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No. 24.

*Mr. Freeman to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September 7.*)

(No. 11.) *Serajevo, August 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

AS Her Majesty's Government has no Consular Agent for the moment in the Vilayet of Kosovo, the following reliable information, obtained from one of my own kavasses who has just returned from Prisrend, his native town, may be of interest to your Lordship:—

The Mushir Dervish Pasha, who has with him from ten to twelve battalions of infantry, appears to be ruling with an iron hand, and has so thoroughly succeeded in



intimidating the Albanian Mussulmans that tranquillity now reigns throughout the greater part of the vilayet. He has banished numberless individuals, and in some cases whole families, who have been hostile to the Government. He had already enforced the Conscription in many parts of the country, and intended to do so in other districts after the Baïram; and although he has not disarmed the population, no one is allowed to carry arms on his person either in town or country, and so strictly and efficiently is this regulation enforced that there appears to be little or no brigandage in the vilayet. In that part of the vilayet, however, within the Austrian lines, there is no restriction as to the carrying of arms, and the country does not appear to be as safe as where Dervish Pasha has undivided sway.

The Christian population, since the advent of Dervish Pasha, seem to be freed from all molestation and ill-treatment on the part of their Mussulman fellow-countrymen; but feeling convinced that this immunity from oppression will cease the moment his Excellency quits, and the fear inspired by his name has been forgotten, they are said to be desirous that the Austrian occupation should be extended further southwards. Probably, however, once freed from the Turks, they would be as little satisfied with the Government of Austria as are actually the Christians of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

It does not seem likely that the Austrians would meet with any open opposition even from the Mussulmans, were they now to advance to Novi-Bazar and Mitrovica,—not that there is really any increase of good feeling towards the Austrians, but the Mussulmans for the moment appear to be disheartened. They have always taken their cue, both here and in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, from the Turkish Government, and the energetic suppression of revolt by Dervish Pasha has shown them that they cannot always count on the support or connivance of the authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

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No. 25.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September 8.*)

(No. 99. Confidential.) *Scutari, August 25, 1881.*

My Lord,

I LEARN from a person in whom I have the greatest confidence, and who has recently had opportunities of conversing several times at Dulcigno with Hadji Omer Effendi, the native of Prisrend who was one of the most important members of the League at that place, and who recently escaped to Montenegro, that he, Hadji Omer Effendi, has had frequent overtures made to him by the Turkish authorities in Scutari and elsewhere to return to Albania.

Hadji Omer Effendi, however, declares that he has no faith whatever in the promises made to him, as the gross injustice which marked the proceedings of Dervish Pasha towards all those who had belonged to the League renders it quite impossible for anyone to divine what may be the ultimate conduct of the Turkish Government.

Hadji Omer Effendi reiterates the assertion which has invariably been made to me by all those of my native friends who were active members of the Albanian League, that he was led to take part in it on the direct instigation of the highest Ottoman officials, and that their control and management only ceased to exist at the very last moment, when, however, the League still endeavoured to act in the manner which it thought would be agreeable to the Turkish Government.

Hadji Omer Effendi further declares that he will not return to Prisrend as long as Dervish Pasha remains there, and that the General is cruelly revenging himself on him for his escape by keeping his wife and daughter in hiding, and thus depriving him of the possibility of occasionally communicating with them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 26.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 8.)*

(No. 100.)
*Scutari, August* 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in compliance with orders received here from Dervish Pasha, two battalions of Nizams will leave this, either to-morrow or the day after, for Prisrend.

In Scutari the Albanians declare that these troops have been sent for in connection with the discomfiture of the battalions near Jacova, reported in my despatch No. 98 of the 22nd instant; but the reason assigned to me by the military commander here, that the Redifs now under Dervish Pasha's orders are to be replaced by Nizams, I believe is true, and the battalions proceeding from this will form only a small part of the reliefs already on their march from Thessaly to north-east Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 27.

*Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received September 8.)*

(No. 42.)
*Philippopoli, August* 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to furnish your Lordship with the following additional particulars respecting the villages situated in the Rhodope, which, although lying within the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, have not yet been formally and definitely ceded to the authorities of this province by the Turkish Government.

The Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik, of which district these villages should form part, has drawn up a detailed Report on this subject, from which it appears that the sixteen villages in the district of Rouptchus contain about 1,838 houses and 13,285 inhabitants, all Pomaks (Mahommedan Bulgarians), and that the four villages of the Canton of Peshtera contain about 360 houses and 1,800 inhabitants, likewise Mahommedan Bulgarians. That notwithstanding the pretended surrender of these villages by the Turkish authorities in December 1880, the latter have continued to levy, on account of the Turkish Government, all the local taxes and imposts, estimated at about £ T. 4,000 annually.

The Acting Governor-General of Adrianople, Pashko Vassa, in a letter addressed to the Roumelian Government, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, frankly admits that such has been the practice, but promises to account for the sums thus levied whenever the villages in question shall have been ceded to the Roumelian Government. This letter bears date the $\frac{18}{30}$th June of this year.

The Turkish Minister recently informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople "that if Mussulman officials were appointed in the district, as required by the Organic Statute, the population would readily recognize the Roumelian régime."

I beg to state that the Kaïmakam of the district to which sixteen of these villages belong, Rouptchus, is a Mussulman, and that he accompanied the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik in November last, when the latter, at the invitation of the Mutessarif of Serres, went to take over the villages in question; likewise that the small force which accompanied them on that occasion was composed almost exclusively of Mahommedan gendarmes levied in this province.

The Roumelian Government shares the opinion of the Prefect, that in order to effect a peaceful cession and occupation of these villages there should be—

1. A temporary disarmament of the villages, notorious for their hostility to the projected annexation, should, for the present, be removed from the scene of action. Their names are: Hadji Hassan, of Trigrad; Hadji Mehmet, of Beden; and Mollah Eyoub, of Mougla.

3. That the cession should be effected by a Commission supported by a body of troops, which should transfer each village separately, beginning with the sixteen villages of the Canton of Rouptchus, in the district of Philippopoli, where the aforesaid instigators to resistance are domiciled. The other four villages, in the Canton of Peshtera, will, it is expected, offer no opposition after that the annexation of the others be effected.

Beside the villages above mentioned there is a cluster of huts (numbering some 150), called Baba Kolibalari, which, although lying within the Roumelian frontier, remains apparently under the jurisdiction of the Kaïmakam of Nevrocop, in Macedonia, and



continues to afford a safe hiding-place to the numerous brigands which infest that district.

The Russian, Austrian, Italian, and French Consuls here have, I understand, been instructed to communicate their views on this question to the Representatives of their respective Governments at Constantinople. As they possess no additional information to that above detailed, I have no reason to believe that their views on the subject of the retrocession of these villages differ in any way from mine.

Your Lordship will observe in the accompanying letter of Pashko Vassa allusion made to certain villages claimed for the Vilayet of Adrianople from the Roumelian Government. As no one here seems to have any information on this matter, I have requested Consul Brophy, at Bourgas, in which district they are said to lie, to report to me the result of his inquiries respecting them, which I shall have the honour to communicate to your Lordship when received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

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Inclosure in No. 27.

*The Governor-General of the Vilayet of Adrianople to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.*

(Traduction.)
4 *Chaban*, 1298 (*le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Juin*, 1881).

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser la réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 14 Redjib, 1298, pour me dire que les quatorze villages qui, d'après la délimitation de la frontière, devraient être annexée au Canton de Rouptcha de la Roumélie Orientale, n'ont pas été remis, et que cette fois-ci les dîmes y ont été perçues sur les moutons et remises par Trigradli Hadji Hassan Aga à la Caisse cantonale de Ahri Chelebi.

Comme votre Excellence le sait de la correspondance échangée, jusqu'à présent les tentatives concernant la remise de ces villages n'ont pas eu de résultats favorables, et jusqu'à ce que ces résultats soient obtenus, je crois bon de faire percevoir les dîmes et impôts des villages contestés, afin qu'ils ne se perdent pas; mais quand les villages auront été remis, on ne manquera pas de faire rendre les sommes ainsi perçues à la Roumélie Orientale, de même que la Roumélie Orientale voudra bien nous rendre les sommes perçues des villages, qui, d'après la délimitation des frontières, reviennent au Vilayet d'Andrinople.

Agréez, &c.
Le Conseiller Remplaçant du Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) PACHKO VASSA.

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No. 28.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September 8.)*

(No. 118.)
*Belgrade, September* 2, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a further Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker on the subject of the Agrarian Law and the complaints of the Turkish proprietors.

The Report is a reply to my request, that he would endeavour to ascertain the truth of the allegation of the proprietors, that "Gospodarlik" or Seigniorial estates are almost unknown, and that with very few exceptions their title-deeds are those of ordinary freehold estates, proving, as they maintain, that their estates must either be without tenants on them, or cultivated by tenants without any legal hold over the land.

I fear Mr. Baker has not quite seized my meaning with regard to the term "freehold tenure," probably owing to the very defective and very contradictory terms of the law; but his despatch nevertheless throws a very broad light on a part of the question at issue.

He states that in the month of February, 1880, a deputation of these same proprietors, who now maintain that "Gospodarlik" tenures are almost unknown, then informed him that the Mussulman estates were almost exclusively of that tenure, and begged him to report the fact officially, which he accordingly did in his despatch to Mr. Louis Gould of the 23rd February, 1880. The discrepancy has been already referred to in my despatch No. 112 of the 26th ultimo.

Mr. Baker further states that the work of the Agrarian Commissions has been rendered unnecessarily difficult by the action of certain individuals who are giving their professional services to the proprietors at a rather exorbitant figure. The names he gives include that of Suleiman Zumberevitch, the author of the telegrams and protests.

On the other hand, he says that one of the causes of the unpopularity of the Commissions is the demands which were made by a late Servian official on the Turkish proprietors for the payment of "baksheesh." All this tallies with what M. Pirochanatz told me, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 116 of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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Inclosure in No. 28.

*Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Locock.*

*Nisch, August* 29, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 26th instant, informing me that it is contended on behalf of the Mussulman land proprietors, whose estates in this neighbourhood are subject to the Agrarian Law (1), that their estates are (almost without exception) of ordinary freehold tenure; (2), that Gospodarlik estates are almost unknown, and instructing me to furnish you with information on the point.

2. As to the contention that the estates are of ordinary freehold tenure, it appears to be an attempt to prove too much, for freehold estates are by section 39 of the Law excluded from its operation. It is true that there are some few freehold estates belonging to Mussulmans, but I have not heard of difficulties being thrown in the way of their alienation, and I may mention a case where I know the Servian Courts have recognized a freehold tenure, viz., the case of a small freehold estate on the right bank of the Nisceva, two or three miles below Nisch, which Colonel Horvatovitch purchased from a Mussulman proprietor, the purchase being recognized and registered by the Great Court of this Department.

3. As to the question whether the estates really subject to the provisions of the Agrarian Law are mostly "Gospodarlik," or Tchiflik-Sajbija (colonised Tchiflik), that is difficult to determine, as the Turkish tapis are generally indefinite as to the boundaries of the "premises" comprised therein, and the rights of third persons thereover; but the peasants naturally allege that such estates are Gospodarlik, and the Mahommedan lords have not always denied it; *e.g.*, in the month of February 1880 a deputation of Turkish landlords waited on me to complain that section 28 of the Agrarian Law did not apply to Gospodarlik, and they then alleged that the Mussulman estates were almost exclusively of that tenure, and they begged me to report the fact officially, which I did in my despatch of the 23rd February, 1880, addressed to Mr. Louis E. Gould; and in paragraph 7 of the same despatch I pointed out that section 28 could not with justice to the tenants be applied to all Gospodarlik estates.

4. As freeholds are excepted from the operation of the Act, the only question remaining (and it is one of mere evidence) is whether each particular estate dealt with by the Commission is Gospodarlik or Tchiflik-Sajbija tenure, and all that depends on that question is whether or not section 28 of the Law is to operate; if so the landlord, instead of being bound to release all his rights in the whole of the estate, has the option of retaining the estate, less five jochs of land to every poll-tax payer residing upon it, and the houses of such taxpayer.

On this question I cannot form an adequate opinion, as I have only heard the allegations of the peasants and those of the landlords, which latter may have been exaggerated, as they were made at a time when the Mussulmans were anxious to prove that the Servian Government had done them an injustice by excluding Gospodarlik estates from the operation of section 28 of the Law, but I hope to have an early opportunity of examining the evidence tendered on both sides of the question, in which case I will at once report the result of such examination.

5. The work of the Agrarian Commission appears to have been rendered unnecessarily difficult by the action of two Servian Advocates, named respectively Ourosh Knièzhevitch and Svetozar Tontonnovitch, and a certain Turk named Suleiman Zoumberevitch. The two Advocates have entered into arrangements with Turkish land proprietors to act for them on the terms of sharing the compensation obtained. As many of the clients have nothing but their landed property, these arrangements are, perhaps, not objectionable in principle, but the amount of the *honoraria* believed to have been agreed upon is out of all



poportion to the work the Advocates have undertaken; *e.g.*, it is currently reported that Ourosh Knièzhevitch is to receive 14,000 ducats, and that he has applied to his clients to register that sum as a charge on their estates. Suleiman, though not an Advocate, is believed to have obtained from his compatriots a similar engagement with regard to the payment for his services, and that is believed to be the reason of his extraordinary activity. This person has dispatched telegrams to Mr. Gladstone, the Servian Government, and each foreign Legation in Belgrade, protesting against the Agrarian Law and its administration, and such telegrams are supposed to have been prepared or suggested by one or both of the Advocates above mentioned.

6. The Commission has also been rendered unpopular amongst the Turks, and its labours impeded by the action of Svetozar Milkovitch, the ex-Prefect of Zesceovatz, who was in the habit of demanding from Turkish land proprietors as "baksheesh" large sums of money for the registration of their titles; *e.g.*, from one Halib 50 ducats, and from a Turk named Pashaguitch 200 ducats. The total amount of this "baksheesh" is said to exceed 700 ducats (about 350*l.*), but although this official has been superseded by the Servian Government, the Commission's unpopularity remains, possibly by reason of the agitation of Suleiman and the two Advocates above named.

7. The complaints of the Turkish land proprietors are doubtless exaggerated, but I feel sure that, on examining the evidence on both sides produced before the Commission, it will be found that they are not groundless, especially with regard to the amount of the compensation and the time allowed to the peasants for paying it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BAKER.

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No. 29.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 9.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)

*Scutari, August* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity afforded me by the three days of the Feast of the Bairam ended yesterday to visit most of my native Mahommedan acquaintances and friends, and observe from the tone of their conversation the present state of their feeling on public affairs here, as compared with the excitement and patriotic hopes which prevailed at this season last year, when the necessity of a cession of Albanian territory to Montenegro was being submitted to them.

The rumoured recent discomfiture of some of Dervish Pasha's troops near Jacova has, I believe, tempted the Mussulmans here to divest themselves of some of the awe with which the Turkish High Commissioner had inspired them when in their midst, and I have consequently found, in most instances, great readiness to impart to me the feeling of intense resentment which is entertained against the Ottoman Government for the manner in which it has treated, and is treating, the Albanians.

At the same time I have noticed the existence of a general conviction that nothing may now be hoped for from the Porte, and that a time must be awaited for when the Albanians, Mahommedans, and Christians will be able to secure for themselves a Government of their own.

In all instances the Sultan's name, in an abstract sense, has been mentioned to me with reverence and respect, but when coupled with that of the Pashas and the Ottoman Administration the language has been, if not seditious, most contemptuous.

I have naturally observed the greatest reserve whilst I have listened to comments on the present and future of Albania; but I trust I shall not meet with your Lordship's disapproval for having ventured so far as to point out to my hosts that the Albanians ought not to give way to despair, as it is evident, through the many sacrifices which the Turkish Government has lately made, that it is earnestly seeking for a period of peace, when it will doubtless endeavour to draw closer to it, by the process of improved administration, those portions of its European Empire which still remain under its direct control.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 30.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)*

(No. 102. Confidential.)
*Scutari, August 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that last week Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, undertook a tour to Podgoritza, and some of the other towns recently annexed to Montenegro, for the purpose of explaining to their Mohammedan inhabitants the good intentions of Prince Nicholas towards them, and the determination existing in all quarters to secure the fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in their favour.

I understand, however, that whilst Riza Bey was preparing to continue his journey from Podgoritza to Niksič, he received peremptory orders from Constantinople to return to Cettinjé.

Perhaps these orders may be attributed to reports sent to the Porte from the authorities at Scutari, who, I regret to say, are not at all disposed to take as broad a view of the relations which ought to exist between Montenegro and Turkey as the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 31.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)*

(No. 103.)
*Scutari, August 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's despatch to your Lordship No. 695 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me to Lord Dufferin on the subject of Assim Pasha's statements as to the reasons for Prenk Bib Doda's continued detention as a prisoner at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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Inclosure in No. 31.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Dufferin.*

*Scutari, August 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 16th instant, communicating to me a copy of the Report addressed by your Excellency on the same day to Lord Granville on the subject of a conversation held by you with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning Prenk Bib Doda, I venture to explain to your Excellency that Assim Pasha must have been led in error as to the Mirdite Chieftain's refusal to use his influence with his people to obey the summons of the Porte to surrender their arms, for no summons of the kind was made to the Mirdites whilst Prenk Bib Doda was still in Scutari.

On the contrary, one of the reasons for the withdrawal of Prenk Bib Doda and his contingent from Tousi last summer was the failure of those who were at the bottom of the resistance to the execution of the April Convention to supply them with rifles in lieu of their flint-lock smooth-bores, and if the Mirdite Chieftain had been subjected to a trial, it could only have been elicited that he had held promises from persons very high in authority, that a Snider or Peabody-Martini rifle would be forthcoming for every Mirdite reporting himself at the head-quarters at Tousi.

Early this spring Captain Kola, the present Kaïmakam of Mirditia, and Dod Ghega, the Bin Bashi of the Mirdite Zaptieh, were ordered by the Vali to withdraw the thirty or forty breech-loading rifles with which their policemen had been armed, and they immediately effected the restitution of all these arms, with the exception of two which had been carried off by the men to whom they had been confided, and who had deserted.

With regard to the wish of the Porte to employ Prenk Bib Doda in Asia Minor, I am



not surprised at the anxiety of the young man to avoid an honour which, from the accounts given by others who have been unable to evade similar enforced employment, is worse even than the rigid imprisonment he is now suffering at the Seraskeriat, as a preliminary to advancement in the Turkish Civil Service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 32.

*Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.*

*Foreign Office, September 9, 1881.*

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency with reference to the note from your Government, of which you were good enough to leave a copy at this Office on the 1st instant, that the question to which it relates of the properties in Roumania claimed by the Holy Places is receiving the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 33.

*Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received September 10.)*

(No. 17.)
*Prevesa, September 3, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to annex copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador relating to the state of public security in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

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Inclosure in No. 33.

*Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.*

*Prevesa, September 3, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports that the authorities at Janina intended to disband the "Movikat," a body of irregulars charged with the suppression of brigandage, and replace it by 2,500 policemen. It appears, however, that, as these troops have to receive arrears of pay, and which Government seems, for the present at least, unable to satisfy, those at Grevenó demanded full payment or they refuse to quit. The authorities have, therefore, been compelled to leave them where they are, and have even sent back to Fagori all those who, in obedience to orders, had proceeded to Janina, but who, finding out that Government did not intend to pay them, proceeded to the Italian Consulate, a step that forced the authorities to grant them one month's wages.

This is indeed a sad state of things, and Mr. Kypriotis is certainly somewhat justified in remarking that "this body of troops may now commit the very worst acts without any fear of the Government."

Mr. Kypriotis also reports the concentration of brigands at Hassia, and the Kaïmakam of Grevenó has, in consequence, applied for a battalion of troops. Similar applications have reached Janina from Margariti and other quarters. It is, no doubt, owing to this demand that the Mütessarif of Prevesa, with the Public Prosecutor and some troops, proceeded to Margariti last week, and returned here the other day with six or seven prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

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No. 34.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September 10.)*

(No. 119.) *Belgrade, September 5, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of an interesting despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, who has visited Procoplié and had interviews with M. Marincovitch, the Commissioner of Control, who was sent by the Servian Government to investigate the complaints brought by the Ottoman land-owners against the Agrarian Commissions at Procoplié and Lescovatz.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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Inclosure in No. 34.

*Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Locock.*

*Nisch, August 31, 1881.*

Sir,

IN order to obtain the information required by the last paragraph of your despatch of the 2nd instant, as to the proceedings of the Commission of Control sent by the Servian Government to investigate the complaints against the Agrarian Commission, I have yesterday and to-day had at Procoplié long interviews with M. Dimitrie Marincovitch, the sole member of the Commission of Control.

2. M. Marincovitch received me with courtesy and cordiality, and expressed himself anxious to afford me all the information in his power, and was good enough to show me the official documents relating to his mission and its execution; but such documents were too numerous and voluminous to permit of my taking detailed notes thereof in the time he was able to place at my disposal. The information contained in the following paragraphs is, therefore, derived entirely from M. Marincovitch's answers to my inquiries:

3. M. Marincovitch states that all the land of the Okroug (Department) of Toplitza (which includes Procoplié and Kourshoumlié) is of Gospodarlik tenure, and that the peasants have, as a rule, held it for many generations; that at the date of the annexation of the new territory to Servia none of the Gospodars had "tapis" (certificates of title) in respect thereof, but that they afterwards obtained "tapis" from the Turkish authorities in Constantinople, and that the peasants have never paid to the lords more than "devetak" (one-ninth), which is most cogent evidence that the land has always been, and still is, Gospodarlik, in spite of the lords' present contention to the contrary.

4. In the year 1860 the Grand Vizier visited this district, and after his visit many Turks who had no "tapis" before received "tapis" from Constantinople in respect of their land, which "tapis" described the land as Tchiflik-Sajbija, or freehold, but the tenants continued to pay "devetak" (one-ninth) only. In Lescovatz and the vicinity thereof all the landlords obtained such "tapis," and they appear to form the foundation of the Mussulmans' present contention that all land in the district of Lescovatz is freehold.

5. As an exception to the general rule, M. Marincovitch admits that the houses, vineyards, gardens, and other premises now or formerly occupied by the landlords personally (?) are freehold; but he states that such premises were comprised in separate "tapis," and not included in the grants of Tchiflik or Gospodarlik land.

6. With regard to the Turkish complaint that private contracts of enfranchisement, made between the lords and the tenants under section 13 of the Law, have been annulled by the Commission, on the ground that the compensation agreed upon was too high, M. Marincovitch denies it *in toto*, and states that the contracts in question were annulled because they purported to comprise wood or pasture belonging to the village as common, and which, under section 38 of the Agrarian Law, the landlords had no power to sell, and to which, under Turkish law, they could not obtain any title.

7. Private contracts under sections 13 and 18 of the Act have been recognized by the Commission where they have not been impeachable by reason of their purporting to comprise "common," and M. Marincovitch cites, as an example, the case of Pashaguitch, of Lescovatz, a rich land-owner, who disposed of all his land (to the peasants cultivating it) by private contract.

8. As to the charge against the Commission, that it has acted on the *ex parte* evidence of the peasants, M. Marincovitch states that that has only happened in cases where the lords have refused to appear, and have neglected to lodge their claims within the year prescribed by section 21 of the Law.



9. There have been questions of title and of tenure between lords and tenants, but those questions have been referred by the Commission to the Court, under section 24 of the Act.

10. The statements of the lords and of the tenants, with regard to the annual produce and value of the land, have been invariably widely different, the lords estimating the land at more than its actual value, the tenants at less; and this being so, the Commission has had in most cases to invite each side to appoint two arbitrators, under section 25, to assist it in assessing the annual value of the land in question. M. Marincovitch is satisfied with the fairness of the valuation so arrived at, but possibly the lords would not view the matter in that light, seeing that they could only count on two votes in a Commission of seven members (viz., the three ordinary members and the four extraordinary appointed by the parties themselves).

11. Although under section 26 the lords whose rents have been in kind are entitled to have their compensation reckoned in kind, and that at eight years' purchase, most of them have preferred to have it reckoned in cash at seven years' purchase, in accordance with the option given them by section 26.

12. With regard to the Turkish complaint that five years have been granted by the Commission to wealthy peasants for payment of the lords' compensation by instalments, M. Marincovitch alleges that it has no foundation, and that the Commission has only granted such credit to persons and villages entitled to it, under section 27 of the Law, by reason of their manifest inability to pay the compensation in any other way. Without reference to the proper or improper execution of this section of the Law, I would beg to point out that the section itself is unjust to the landlords, inasmuch as the compensation carries only "legal interest" (6 per cent.), whilst the landlords' rents are capitalized at seven years' purchase, or on the basis that the rents represent 14 per cent. per annum on their capital value. An example will best illustrate the case. If a landlord's rents be estimated at 100*l.* per annum, his compensation under section 26 is 700*l.*, but his interest under section 27 is only 42*l.*, or less than half the amount of his rent. Now, the current rate of interest (or income from real property) is in this district 12 per cent. on the principal (or capital value); so that if, in the case supposed, the landlord had his 700*l.* compensation paid down in cash, he could derive an income from it of 84*l.* per annum, or double as much as the interest he is entitled to under section 27. Therefore section 27 is unjust to the landlord, and, if it be not repealed, a fund ought to be raised for payment of the compensation in cash, so as to render any resort to the provisions of section 27 unnecessary. This section is obnoxious, not only on the ground of injustice, but as tending to prolong and aggravate the troubles arising from the differences between the Mussulmans and Christians.

13. M. Marincovitch's personal acquaintance with the administration of the Agrarian Law extends, as will be observed, to the Okroug (Department) of Toplitza only, and I have not yet had an opportunity of ascertaining what the Lescovatz Commission alleges in reply to the charges brought against it by the Mussulmans of that district; but judging from the courteous reception accorded to me by M. Marincovitch, and from the evident desire of the Servian Government to convince the Signatory Powers to the Berlin Treaty that the Mussulmans' complaints are groundless, I scarcely think that my investigating those complaints at Lescovatz would (as suggested by your despatch of the 29th instant) be looked upon as an unjustifiable interference with the internal administration of the country. Possibly the information contained in this despatch may modify your opinion on this point, but I shall, of course, refrain from visiting Lescovatz in respect of this matter until I shall have received your definite instruction thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BAKER.

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No. 35.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 635.) *Foreign Office, September 10, 1881.*

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador has called my attention to the failure of the Roumanian Government to come to an arrangement with the Patriarchs of the Holy Places in regard to the rights of the Eastern monasteries in certain properties in Roumania. I inclose copy of a note addressed to Musurus Pasha,[a] in which the Porte invokes the assistance of Her Majesty's Government to secure a reference of the question to arbitration.

[a] No. 23.

A representation on this subject was made to me in May of last year by the Archimandrite Myriantheus, and in my despatch No. 10 of the 28th of that month I requested Mr. Goschen to inquire how the matter stood, and to give me his opinion as to the best mode of settling it.

The Memoranda which accompanied that despatch will make your Excellency acquainted with the facts of the case, and I have to request you to take the matter into consideration, and favour me with your opinion as to the best mode of dealing with it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 36.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)*

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August 28, 1881.*

IN continuation of my Report No. 98 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private letter from a native correspondent at Uscup, furnishing items of information on the situation of affairs in Upper Albania. I am making inquiries as to the truth of the statement that Christians are forcibly converted to the Mahommedan faith.

I should add that I hear from Turkish sources that Dervish Pasha apprehends that the sedition and turbulence of the Albanian mountaineers of Djacova, Ipek, and Dibra may assume a more serious and general character, and hesitates to assert his authority in those districts with the military force now at his disposal, and I have heard from a trustworthy source that he has again strongly urged the Porte to send him a reinforcement of eight battalions of infantry and two batteries of mountain guns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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Inclosure in No. 36.

*Extract from a Letter from a Correspondent at Uscup, dated August 24, 1881.*

DEPUIS son séjour à Prisrend Dervish Pacha n'a pas pu réussir à mettre sous régime les Montagnards (Malisovli) de Recca et autres districts dans les Caïmacamliks de Djacova et Ipek.

La semaine dernière il expédia quelques troupes dans ces parages, mais les Montagnards ayant été informés d'avance, se sont postés aux détroits et ont commencés une fusillade qui a fini avec un Colonel de tué et la retraite des troupes, qui sont rentrés de nouveau à Prisrend.

Dervish Pacha invita alors les habitants notables de Djacova pour les engager à calmer cette insurrection, supposant qu'elle est encouragée par ces derniers.

Nous sommes, en outre, informés de source certaine, que, le 13 courant, deux hommes de notre ville se sont rendus à Prisrend avec £ T. 2,000, pour obtenir la libération des neuf notables exilés de notre ville pour leur participation dans la Ligue Albanaise. Ces individus sont revenus à Uscup publiant à haute voix qu'ils avaient réussi seulement à faire libérer sept des détenus, et que pour les deux autres (Yachar Bey et Hadji Bey) il y aura à payer une autre rançon. On a l'espoir de voir revenir dans quelques jours les susdits détenus. Nous n'avons pas de tranquillité dans notre contrée. Dans les villages environnants on commet toujours plusieurs crimes, comme brigandage et meurtres, et, ce qui est pire encore, des Chrétiens sont forcés à embrasser la foi Musulmane sans que l'autorité accorde la moindre attention.

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No. 37.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)*

E
(No. 767.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1881.*

ON Monday last, at a conference of the Ambassadors, Count Montholon called our attention to the fact that the Cretan Assembly had disregarded, and evidently intended to invade, several of the privileges enjoyed by foreign Governments under the Capitulations. At the same time he communicated to us a Memorandum on the subject, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

This document sets forth that the Cretan Assembly has acted in antagonism to existing Treaties, Conventions, and customs, in regard to the following points:—

1. "Assignations" (summonses) and "requêtes introductives d'instance," which foreigners are entitled to have presented through their Consuls, to the local authorities.
2. The non-admission of the Consul, or of his representative, at the Court during the proceedings ("à l'audience et aux délibérations").
3. The execution of sentences otherwise than by Consular authorities.
4. The suppression of the Tribunals of Commerce.

Some remarks follow on the Law passed by the Cretan Assembly for cancelling outstanding debts, and the Memorandum concludes by stating that the Consuls at Canea hint that unless the Sublime Porte can be induced to observe the Capitulations their presence in Crete will become useless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 37.

*Memorandum by Count Montholon.*

*Nouveaux Codes de l'Ile de Crète. Infractions aux Traités.*

LES points principaux sur lesquels les nouvelles Lois votées par l'Assemblée Crétoise sont en désaccord avec les Traités, Conventions, et usages qui lient la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères dans les contestations en matière mixte, sont au nombre de quatre:—

1. Les assignations et les requêtes introductives d'instance;
2. L'assistance du Consul ou de son délégué à l'audience et aux délibérations;
3. L'exécution des Jugements par l'autorité Consulaire;
4. La suppression des Tribunaux de Commerce.

*Assignations et Requêtes.*

Sur le premier point, un accord se serait établi provisoirement entre les autorités judiciaires et administratives de l'île et les Consuls. Les assignations et citations à comparaître seraient apportées au Consulat par un huissier porteur d'un registre, que viserait, pour reçu, un employé chargé de ce service; la signification en serait faite par le Consul.

Quant aux requêtes introductives d'instance, peu importe qu'elles soient envoyées par le Consul au Gouverneur-Général ou aux Présidents de Tribunaux; mais, en aucun cas, le sujet étranger ne saurait les présenter directement à l'autorité locale, et elles doivent toujours être transmises par l'intermédiaire du Consulat, soit par "takrir" ou note Turque reproduisant le résumé de la demande, soit accompagnées d'une note verbale ou signée.

*Assistance du Consul aux Délibérations.*

L'assistance du Consul ou de son délégué à l'audience n'a jamais fait l'objet d'une discussion quelconque. Il y a quelques années la Sublime Porte a contesté le droit de la présence du Drogman à la délibération, mais les Ambassades ont protesté contre cette prétention inadmissible; à la suite de cette protestation, la Sublime Porte a adressé aux Présidents des Tribunaux de l'Empire en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, 1291, une Circulaire qui porte en substance que "sur une protestation émanée des Ambassades les Drogmans

devaient provisoirement être admis dans la Chambre du Conseil et être présents aux délibérations. (Voyez Destour, vol. iii, p. 198.)*

Plus récemment, une Circulaire du Ministère de la Justice a prescrit à tous les Présidents de Tribunaux de l'Empire d'avoir à présenter les dispositifs des Jugements à la signature du Drogman, en matière correctionnelle, ainsi que cela se pratiquait déjà en matière commerciale et civile.

*Exécution des Jugements.*

L'exécution des Jugements rendus en faveur d'un sujet Ottoman contre un étranger est dévolue à l'autorité dont relève celui-ci; en ce moment même, à Constantinople, les Ambassades sont sur le point d'arriver à une entente avec le Gouvernement Ottoman relativement à la mise en pratique du nouveau règlement relatif à l'exécution des Jugements; aucune prétention semblable à celle des autorités Crétoises n'a jamais été élevée par la Sublime Porte.

*Tribunaux de Commerce.*

L'existence des Tribunaux de Commerce est le résultat d'une entente entre la Sublime Porte et les Ambassades; les intérêts des étrangers y sont sauvegardés par la présence des Juges de leur nationalité.

Les Tribunaux civils qui ne remplissent pas ces conditions n'offriraient ni les mêmes garanties ni la même sécurité.

En outre, il ne dépend pas de l'Assemblée Crétoise de supprimer un état de choses que l'usage a consacré et qui est en vigueur tant à Constantinople que dans toutes les provinces.

Sur tout ces points les Ambassades ne sauraient que protester énergiquement contre les agissements de l'Assemblée Crétoise et du Gouverneur-Général qui aurait dû sauvegarder les droits des étrangers découlant de stipulations internationales.

*Dettes Crétoises.*

Le 3 Mai, 1879, l'Assemblée Crétoise a voté une Loi annulant les Jugements rendus au profit des étrangers relativement aux dettes de l'île antérieures à 1866. Les Ambassades d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Angleterre, d'Italie, et de France ont protesté sous une forme identique en suggérant le mode de règlement suivant présenté à la Sublime Porte, à la suite d'une entente intervenue entre les Consuls et leurs nationaux:—

"Les comptes seraient arrêtés à une date commune; on déduirait ensuite un cinquième du capital tout entier et on stipulerait un remboursement annuel par tiers avec intérêt à 9 pour cent au lieu de 12 pour cent à partir de la novation opérée par le nouveau billet jusqu'à l'extinction complète de la créance à l'échéance de la troisième année.

Les dates des protestations de l'Ambassade de France sont du 5 Août et 6 Décembre, 1879, 25 Août et 12 Décembre, 1880, 11 Avril, 1881.

Les Consuls à la Canée laissent entendre que leur présence est désormais inutile s'il n'est pas fait droit à leurs protestations et si les Ambassades ne parviennent pas à obtenir de la Porte l'application rigoureuse des Capitulations.

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No. 38.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)*

E
(No. 772.)

*Therapia, September 5, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Mr. Consul-General Jones his despatch on the Rhodope villages No. 36 of the 26th August, of which a copy has been sent to your Lordship.

The fact of the Acting Governor of Adrianople still continuing to levy the taxes in the district which the Turks maintain they have ceded completely upsets the Porte's plea that the Ottoman Government, having terminated all connection with the district, is consequently under no obligation to assist the Roumelian Government in establishing its authority.

I imagine that my colleagues will soon receive the Reports of their respective Consuls, and that we shall then again press the Porte to do its duty.

* Article XXVI du Traité de 1740:—"Si quelqu'un avait un différend avec un marchand Français et qu'ils se rapportassent chez le Cadi, ce Juge n'écoutera point leur procès *si le Drogman Français ne se trouve présent.*



As the Ottoman Government is very anxious to have the question of the provincial tributes settled, it might be well if a hint were conveyed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs from the Powers that there might be difficulty in arriving at the desired result as long as questions like those of the Rhodope villages remain in suspense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 39.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)*

E
(No. 780.)

*Therapia, September 6, 1881.*

My Lord,

M. NOVIKOFF told me that at an interview with the Sultan to which he was admitted on his return to his post he had asked His Majesty what had been done in the Montenegrin affair. His Majesty told him that he had authorized his Agent, Riza Bey, to inquire of the Prince of Montenegro what were the minimum of his demands.

M. Novikoff further informed me that he had now learned that the Prince had, in reply, traced a line including more than that accorded to him by Captain Sale's proposal; and that he (M. Novikoff) had intimated that as the Porte had neglected to accept the line suggested by himself two months ago (which I understood to be nearly identical with Captain Sale's line), and which gave Yosic and Matagosh to Montenegro, he was instructed no longer to content himself with that settlement, but to support the Prince of Montenegro's new demand.

M. Novikoff also confirmed the fact, which I have already reported to your Lordship, of the Porte's being inclined to acquiesce in the Sale compromise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 40.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)*

(No. 783.)

*Therapia, September 6, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE already informed your Lordship that the Prime Minister having sent an order to the Treasury to pay in "havalés" the claims of certain British subjects on a list I had submitted to him, and having further assured me that if the "havalés" were not cashed in the provinces they would be cashed in Constantinople, I had acquainted the persons interested with the fact, and that some of them had accepted the offer of the Porte without reserve, that some had acquiesced in the proposed arrangement conditionally, and that others still hesitated to come into it.

One of the individuals in the last category, in communicating to me his decision, has requested me to continue my diplomatic efforts on his behalf.

In reply, I have reminded him, but neither in writing nor officially, that as it is admitted on all sides that so large a sum as 280,000*l.* could not be forthcoming in cash, the proposal of the Government seemed the only alternative, if anything like an immediate settlement was desired; that the Prime Minister having made me a solemn promise that the drafts upon the provinces should be duly honoured, any further diplomatic action upon my part was not for the present desirable; and that it might not be even politic to afford his Highness an opportunity of modifying, or confusing by subsequent observations, the categorical character of his recent assurance.

In view of still further assisting those of the claimants who had accepted the offer of the Porte upon certain conditions (amongst whom are to be reckoned Messrs. Cuppa and the Varna Railway Company, to whom the sums of £T. 90,000 and 140,000*l.* are respectively owing), I instructed Sir Alfred Saudison to wait upon the Minister of Finance, and, while acquainting him with the character of the replies I had received, to make him understand that although, on the one hand, I myself accepted the assurance of the Prime Minister as an absolute and faultless guarantee, on the other, I was bound to take into account the misgivings still apparently entertained by many of the claimants in regard to their obtaining a full and unimpaired satisfaction of their demands.

His Excellency, who, I am told, is a man of character and intelligence, stated, to

quote the report of Sir Alfred Sandison, "that the matter must be considered as already concluded with the Porte, and that it was for him now to carry out the orders of the Prime Minister, and to give such personal assurances to the claimants as would relieve their further anxiety in regard to the 'havalés' they were to receive. These," his Excellency added, "will be given on the general revenue of the provinces for the current year, though it may be impossible to fix any particular term (as is asked for by some of the claimants) for their encashment, which has to be effected *pari passu* with the gradual collection of the different revenues by the provincial authorities."

His Excellency further promised to inform Sir Alfred Sandison privately, for the satisfaction of the claimants, what were the particular provinces upon which it was intended to issue the "havalés," and which he promised should be solvent provinces.

This is a very important point, as your Lordship will remember that some of the claimants said that the satisfactory nature of the settlement would depend upon whether the "havalés" were drawn upon prosperous or bankrupt provinces.

Sir Alfred Sandison concludes his Memorandum by stating that the Minister, who is personally acquainted with almost all the claimants and fully recognizes the justice of their demands, gave him the impression of being resolved to act fairly and in good faith throughout this matter.

With the view of giving still further facilities to the claimants, I have instructed Mr. Dragoman Marinich and Mr. Preziosi to place themselves at their disposal, and to give them every assistance in their power. This arrangement is equally agreeable to the creditors and to the Minister of Finance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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## No. 41.

*Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received September 15.)*

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September 6, 1881.*

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of my despatch to your Lordship No. 42 of the 29th ultimo, respecting counter-claims brought by the Turkish Government against this province on account of certain villages situated in the district of Bourgas, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Memorandum, with which Consul Brophy has supplied me, on this subject, from which it appears that the claim is not for the restitution of these villages, but for certain taxes levied on land appertaining to them lying within the boundary of this province, and which should have been remitted to the Treasury at Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

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Inclosure in No. 41.

*Memorandum by Consul Brophy.*

| Village. | Number of Houses. | Canton. | Community. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kara Evren .. .. .. | 47 | Bourgas .. | Mussulman. |
| Moussa Keui .. .. .. | 7 | Ditto .. .. | Ditto. |
| Kara Toprak .. .. .. | 5 | Ditto .. .. | Ditto. |

These villages were handed over to Adrianople in August 1880. In 1879 the Agnam Beyligui sheep tax was levied by the Russians previous to their evacuation, and the tithe on cereals by the Roumelian Government, for which it holds itself responsible. In 1880 the sheep tax, due in the spring, was paid to the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and the tithe of cereals to Adrianople, except such as were due from villages situated in the district of Adrianople, but whose lands lay within the Roumelian boundary. This applies to Kara Evren and Moussa Keui, and I learn that Bulgarian villages under



## No. 41*.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 15.)*

(No. 105. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September 2, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90, Confidential, of the 27th July last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a note which has appeared in the issue of the Cettinjé newspaper "Glas Tchernagortsa" of the $\frac{16}{28}$th ultimo, on the subject of the recent denials in the Austrian press of any guarantee having been given by the Emperor or the Austro-Hungarian Government for the purpose of facilitating the conclusion of a Montenegrin loan in Vienna.

I have no doubt that the kind of confirmation now given by the "Glas Tchernagortsa" to the denials of the Austrian papers has been obtained at the instance of the Imperial and Royal Minister Resident at Cettinjé, and that the concluding paragraph of the note was added to reassure the Montenegrin public on the subject of the financial transactions of their Government in Vienna, and which Prince Nicholas admitted to me, as reported in my despatch No. 83 of the 12th July last, were calculated to compromise the freedom of his action.

Voïvoda Radonich has again left Cettinjé for abroad on the pretext of health, but it is very probable that his steps will have once more been directed towards Vienna; and if it hereafter transpires that he has secured an advance from the Länderbank on the very advantageous terms already stated by me, no doubt need be felt that the arrangement which Prince Nicholas informed me had been entered upon with the Emperor has held good. On the other hand, if the loan is not concluded, and M. Radonich returns empty-handed, it may safely be surmised that the Austro-Hungarian Government has become distrustful of the attitude of Montenegro in the complications which appear to be thickening in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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Inclosure in No. 41*.

*Extract from the "Glas Tchernagortsa" of Cettinjé of August $\frac{16}{28}$, 1881.*

(Translation.)

THE "Manchester Guardian" reported, and various other papers copied the report, that Montenegro desired to negotiate a loan at Vienna, guaranteed by Austria-Hungary. Trustworthy papers in Vienna have already denied that there is any foundation for this report, adding that, if Montenegro attempted to form such a loan, neither the Emperor nor the Government of Austria-Hungary would in any way be parties to it.

These declarations on the part of the newspapers of Vienna are so true and precise that we can add nothing to them.

Still, we wish to make it clear that for 400 years Montenegro has never traded on its honour or its interests, though it has frequently had opportunity to do so, and to state that, consequently, it indignantly rejects all such transactions.

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the same circumstances are subject to the same rule, by a mutual arrangement of the authorities of the conterminous provinces.

*Bourgas, August* 31, 1881.

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No. 42.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 641.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1881.

I HAVE to call your attention to the despatch, of which I inclose a copy,* from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, relative to the villages in the Rhodope which continue under the jurisdiction of the Turkish Government, although properly belonging to the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

Your Excellency will notice the measures which the Roumelian Government appear to think necessary for effecting the peaceful cession of these villages; and I have to request you to take such steps in the matter at the Porte as, after consultation with your colleagues, you may consider advisable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 43.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.*

(No. 43.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 115 and 120 of the 29th ult. and 5th instant, stating the reasons why you did not think it advisable to authorize Mr. Baker to proceed to Procoplia and Lescovatz in order to make further investigations into the complaints of the Turkish land-owners against the Servian Agrarian Law, and I have to express my approval of your action in this matter.

You will, however, convey my thanks to Mr. Baker for his preliminary Report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 44.

*Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 19.)

(No. 138.)

My Lord, *Sophia, September* 6, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a Decree has been issued by the Prince of Bulgaria appointing M. Ivancho Penchovitch as President of the Commission to examine the complaints of the Mussulmans and Christians in the district of Kustendil with regard to landed property.

M. Todoroff is the other Bulgarian member of the Commission, and Sadullah Effendi, the Mufti of Sophia, has been appointed as Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

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No. 45.

*Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 19.)

(No. 122. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 11, 1881.

THE French Envoy, Count de Caneaux, continues to prosecute his inquiries into the complaints of the Turkish proprietors at the treatment they have received from the Servian Agrarian Commission.

He was kind enough to show me yesterday a Report from the French Vice-Consul

* No. 27.

at Nisch. The information which it contained was apparently drawn from Turkish sources. M. de Canclaux directed my attention to the statement that agreements of purchase amicably arrived at between the proprietors and the tenants were often set aside by the Commission in contravention of Article 13 of the Agrarian Law, under the pretext that the boundaries of the property being transferred were incorrectly defined, or included forest, common, or rocky land; that the Commission had then proceeded on the above pretext to diminish very considerably the price, and that even in cases where the Turkish proprietor had declared his unwillingness to cede his land on such new terms the Commission had declared the transfer effected.

I remarked to M. de Canclaux that this was the precise account which was given by Khalid Bey, but that it went beyond what M. Marincovitch had admitted to Mr. Baker at Procoplia, which was that the Commission had simply annulled certain agreements because they were for the sale of land a portion of which belonged in reality to the commune and not to the Turkish landowner. M. de Canclaux was, however, of the opinion that even if it were simply so the case would be one for an ordinary Tribunal to decide, and would not come within the cognizance of the Commission under any provision of the Agrarian Law.

M. de Canclaux confessed, as he has on previous occasions, the difficulty he finds in forming a decided opinion on the precise merits of the question, or on the mode in which the Powers can best hope to aid in settling it. He believes that there is probably a good deal to be said on both sides. The complaints of the Turks may be greatly exaggerated, but there has been doubtless much in the proceedings of the Commission which it would be difficult to justify. But its task is a difficult one. This was especially the case with regard to the "tapias," or certificates of proprietorship, presented by the Turkish landlords. M. Pirochanatz had told him that it was most difficult to admit the genuineness of many of them. Whenever a title was required it seemed to be sent for from Constantinople, and invariably arrived as though it had been made to order, with date, name, and measurement just as required. M. de Canclaux further told me that he had himself seen several of these "tapias," and that they had all the appearance of having been drawn out only the other day.

On one point M. de Canclaux appears to me to have made up his mind: it is that it is too late to ask the Servian Government to abrogate or change the Agrarian Law itself. As to this, indeed, I have not found two opinions amongst my colleagues, excluding naturally Khalid Bey, though even he has, I think, begun to regard such an object as rather hopeless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

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No. 46.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)*

(No. 469.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 14, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the French Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that he was, by order of his Government, about to call the attention of the Russian Government to the manner in which the Servian Government were dealing with the property of Mussulmans in Servia, with a view of finding out what course the Imperial Government was adopting in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 47.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)*

(No 13. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, September 19, 1881.*

THROUGH certain misapprehensions which have arisen between inhabitants of Dulcigno and the Montenegrin Government, the former are greatly excited, and are preparing to emigrate in a body.

Prince Nicholas is inclined to be most conciliatory, and I have endeavoured to make



this known to the Dulcignote leaders, but I have ascertained in a most confidential manner through sure source that Dervish Pasha is managing the agitation above described.

I strongly urged that the said Pasha and all the authorities in Albania should receive imperative orders from the Porte to desist from instigating a proceeding which can only lead to great sufferings and ruin.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

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No. 48.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 648.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1881.*

YOUR Excellency will have received a copy of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch No. 96 of the 12th ultimo, reporting the proceedings of the authorities in Thessaly in regard to the suppression of brigandage, and pointing out the manner in which the Kaïmakam and Commandant of Catterina are granting almost unconditional amnesties to the brigands. Mr. Blunt states that Salih Pasha, who is employed in dispersing these bands in Macedonia, is entirely opposed to these proceedings, and has telegraphed to the Porte on the subject.

I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of pointing out the impolicy of such wholesale amnesties to the Turkish Government, who have themselves objected, as I am informed by Musurus Pasha, to similar steps alleged to have been taken by the Greek Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 49.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.*

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1881.*

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatches relative to the Servian Agrarian Law, and with reference to your despatch No. 116 of the 30th ultimo, reporting the assurances of M. Pirochanatz as to the desire of the Ministers to remove all just cause of complaint on the part of the landlords, you might take an opportunity of recommending the Servian Government to come to such a settlement with the Turkish proprietors as may obviate the necessity of the question being taken up by the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 50.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)*

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Prince and Princess of Montenegro, accompanied by their eldest daughter, the Princess Zorka, visited Dulcigno for the first time since its transfer to the Principality, on the 4th instant, and remained there until the 7th.

I understand the Dulcigniotes presented a petition to Prince Nicholas praying that their children should not be obliged to attend the newly-established Slav schools; that they themselves should be exempted from military service; that the Mahommedan laws of inheritance should still be administered between Mussulmans; and that Dulcigniote vessels should not be required to change the Ottoman flag for that of Montenegro, whereby they would be shut out from the important privilege of carrying on the Turkish coasting trade in Albanian timber and fire-wood.

I have not yet ascertained the final answer given by the Prince to the petition, but I believe the Dulcigniotes understood from the manner of its reception that it is not likely to be favourably considered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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No. 51.

*Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have written to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, bringing to his Excellency's notice the points in which the Cretan magistrature refuse to recognize the rights acquired by foreigners in Turkey, and reporting the suggestion made by the French Consul as to the drawing up of a Protocol reasserting Treaty rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

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Inclosure in No. 51.

*Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Dufferin.*

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September* 10, 1881.

DURING the term of office of your Excellency's predecessor much correspondence passed between Her Majesty's Embassy and this Consulate concerning the differences constantly arising with the judicial authorities in Crete as to the rights and privileges acquired by foreigners in Turkey, which they considered to have lapsed when the reorganization of the Cretan Tribunals came into operation.

While the Cretan magistrature finally yielded some points in dispute, they have refused to give way in the following :—

1. The admission of the Consul or his delegate while the deliberations previous to the pronouncing of the sentence in which a foreigner is an interested party are going on.

2. Judgments rendered in favour of foreigners are not executed, because according to the new Code of Procedure they must address themselves directly to the Ushers of the Courts for their execution.

3. Objections are sometimes raised to the receiving of the petitions of foreigners against Ottoman subjects, because they are sent by the Consuls to the Governor-General, instead of directly to the President, as directed by the Code of Procedure.

4. In criminal suits the Courts assume the right of releasing the prisoner on bail while the investigation is going on, without advising the Consulate.

In his Excellency's despatch dated the 3rd March Mr. Goschen forwarded me, for my guidance, copy of a letter from Mr. Acting Judge Burrell, by which I was instructed to maintain all the Treaty rights of British subjects, and Mr. Goschen added that a Commission was to examine the new Cretan Codes of Procedure, and report on what points they infringed on the Capitulations.

It is clear that the Cretan authorities have no intention of withdrawing from the attitude of antagonism to foreigners which they have assumed, and that nothing short of a formal Convention between the Porte and the Heads of foreign Missions in Turkey can be of any avail in bringing the conflict of opinion at present existing to a satisfactory conclusion. My French colleague has suggested to the French Ambassador at Constantinople the propriety of the drawing up of a Protocol between the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers interested in the question of Consular jurisdiction in Crete, similar to that signed at Constantinople on the $\frac{13}{24}$th February, 1873, respecting Consular jurisdiction in Tripoli. Whilst in that instrument the Sublime Porte "expressed to the Governments of France, Great Britain, and Italy the desire that in the Province of Tripoli in Africa the competency of the local jurisdiction, in cases between natives and foreigners of French, English, and Italian nationality, should be settled upon the same bases as in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire in Europe and Asia," so, in the present instance, the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers interested might make the same demand of the Sublime Porte in the case of Crete, where the judicial authorities are encroaching on the privileges secured to foreigners by the Capitulations. I trust that this idea of the French Consul's will meet with your Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

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No. 52.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 657.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1881.

I HAD already addressed a despatch to your Excellency on the subject of Consul-General Jones' proposals in regard to the Rhodope villages, previous to the receipt of your despatch No. 772 of the 3rd instant.

I concur with your Excellency in thinking that it would be advisable to let the Porte understand that, so long as matters of this description remain unsettled, it will be difficult to determine the question of the provincial tributes; and I authorize you to make a suggestion in this sense to the Turkish Ministers, if you can obtain the support of your colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 53.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Salonica, September* 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres relative to the state of affairs in that sandjak.

The account he gives of the proceedings of the local authorities in matters affecting the collection or farming of the tithes upon agricultural produce coincides in the main with what I have heard from other sources, and affords a fair illustration of the manner in which the overseers and collectors of tithes are selected and appointed in Macedonia. The natural results of this are that jobbery and gross abuses largely prevail in this important branch of the provincial revenue, and I regret to say that no earnest efforts are made to check them. It is true that inquiries are occasionally instituted, but unfortunately yield no good results, as they are unattended by publicity.

The following instance, which occurred not very long ago, is an example of the utter uselessness of such inquiries :—

The Governor-General of Salonica, upon receiving a report from the Mutessarif of Serres, accusing the Kaïmakam and tithe collectors of Zihna of having embezzled more than 5,000*l*., dispatched an official to the spot to investigate the matter, and subsequently summoned the Mutessarif and the accused parties to Salonica, where a fresh inquiry was instituted, and conducted by the "Idaré Medjliss" (Administrative Council), in the presence of a member of the Council of the Ministry of Finance, Halid Bey, who was sent by the Porte for that purpose.

The inquiry was not conducted in a strict or impartial manner, and was finally closed upon the pretext that positive proofs were wanting to establish the guilt of the accused. The Government Agent returned to Constantinople armed with a "Mazbata" (Report) to the above effect, the accused were allowed to resume their duties at Zihna, and the Mutessarif was sent back to his post with a hint not to take any further action in the matter; and yet it is generally said and believed, in the best informed circles here and at Serres, that the Mutessarif furnished ample proofs of the defalcations in question.

A few days ago another official, Riza Effendi, arrived here from Constantinople to make an inquiry on the part of the Minister of Finance into the alleged corrupt transactions of some members of the Local Administration who have been entrusted with the sale by public auction of this year's tithes; but the prevailing impression here is that this inquiry also will not lead to the exposure and punishment of the delinquents.

With regard to the attempt of the authorities of Serres to levy double the amount of "emlak," or tax on real property, I believe it will be abandoned, owing to the strong feeling manifested against the measure by the Turkish and Christian landowners in that and other parts of Macedonia.

A similar attempt was made at Salonica not long ago, and relinquished in consequence of the united action of the leading Turkish and Christian Notables and landowners, who respectfully remonstrated with the Governor-General against any further increase of this property-tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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Inclosure in No. 53.

*Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.*

*August* 23, 1881.

THE complaints regarding the sale of the tithes are various, and from sundry quarters. First, the staff of overseers, gatherers, &c., appointed to collect the tithes for account of the Government, have been bitterly disappointed. At first the Turkish local authorities decided to appoint only Turks in this service. The Christian members of the Konak protested against this, and insisted that their co-religionists should have a share of the appointments, or else they would resign. The Turks softened down and agreed to appoint a certain number of non-Mussulmans. They asked exorbitant security, the Christians managed to give it, and in most instances had to give a heavy "backsheesh" besides to obtain an appointment.

These officials, both Christians and Turks, enter this service not merely for the sake of the monthly wages, which are trifling and uncertain, but with the hope of plundering the Government. Now they are dismissed, and are told to receive a month's wages from the buyers of the tithes; they, therefore, have lost their time, money, hopes of booty, and are thrown nearly penniless out of situation: hence, great dissatisfaction prevails amongst them.

Again, the peasants have been ordered by the authorities to cease harvesting and husbanding their crops till the arrival of the buyers of the tithes. This threw the peasantry into a state of consternation. Some villages sent in petitions, remonstrating; but to these the local authorities paid no attention, and merely tore them up; the peasantry then decided to take no heed of the Government injunction, and continue their harvesting operations, whereupon police were sent to stop collection of the crops. I now hear that the peasantry intend coming here, *en masse*, to protest.

The fact of arresting harvesting at this critical moment may be fraught with evil consequences. Bad weather may come on, and deteriorate or damage the crops. Besides the crops remaining in the fields, the farmers are afraid of abuses and robberies among themselves.

I hear the local authorities have ordered the "Mukhtars" to collect "emlak," or property tax, and to give receipts only for the ordinary tax without including the surcharge.

Whether this measure be adopted through instructions from higher quarters, or upon the initiative of the local authorities with a view to replenish their pockets, is not known; but, I regret to say, the latter supposition is considered as the most probable.

I hear our Mutessarif was detained at Salonica for having exposed gross abuses in the collection of last year's tithes in Zihna and other districts; instead of being thanked he has got himself into trouble.

As I stated to you in my last Report, brigandage in its true sense is extinct in this sandjak, but, owing to the inefficiency of the police and Tribunals to repress and punish crimes, a general sense of insecurity prevails.

A most extraordinary instance occurred at the beginning of this month, which caused surprise and indignation in the Christian community.

A party of about ten individuals were returning from the fair at Perna towards evening, about half-an-hour's distance from Serres; the party was attacked, the assailants fired pistol-shots, wounding in the ear one of them; they then robbed them of their cash and some of their horses. The victims of this outrage reported the circumstances to the authorities, police were sent to the spot, and returned, reporting that no trace of the robbers could be found. The authorities then turned round against the plaintiffs, and accused them of having been drunk, and told them that their complaint was a tissue of lies, &c. The "Urfie," or Military Tribunal, then ordered them to be imprisoned, thereby adding insult to injury. These individuals being respectable, they were finally released through the kind intercession of the Greek Archbishop.

Most of the crimes and offences are attributed to the "muhadjirs" (war fugitives). Some of these appear to be respectable and have trades, others seem to be the refuse and scum of Bulgaria.

The above reports I obtain from Christian sources, and do not believe there is any exaggeration. The fact, however, is incontestable that grumbling and discontent exist; the Tribunals are getting worse; the repressive power of justice against malefactors is getting weaker; and, in general, it is undeniable the country is deteriorating, and unless stringent measures be adopted to change and ameliorate circumstances, matters may come to a crisis.



No. 54.

*Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 23.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the following information, which I have derived from a well-informed source, relative to the situation of affairs at Prisrend and surrounding Albanian districts.

The census of the population has been taken without opposition in the towns and districts of Uscup, Kalkandelen, Katchanik, Pristina, Mitrovitza, and Prisrend; but this measure has not yet been introduced in the districts of Lower and Upper Dibra, and was very incompletely effected in those of Ipek and Djacova. The Albanian mountaineers in those districts have assumed a menacing attitude, and in some localities, as was the case at Reka, a large nahié in district of Djacova, they forcibly expelled the Turkish officials who had charge of the census registers.

According to my informant great lawlessness reigns in the districts of Dibra, and as no serious efforts are made by the Ottoman authorities to re-establish their administration, the refractory mountaineers ravage the Christian villages with impunity, and keep the peaceable inhabitants in a continual state of alarm.

About six weeks ago a large band of those mountaineers from the Nahié of Retch, in Lower Dibra, made an irruption into the district of Kalkandelen, and stole 200 head of cattle and 1,000 sheep from the village of Gostivar; and about the same time another formidable band from the Nahié of Kalis, in Lom, came down into the plains and carried off more than 7,000 sheep.

The Christian villagers, who were the principal sufferers from these acts of depredation, appealed to Dervish Pasha for redress and protection. His Excellency at once dispatched an officer of his staff to the spot, charged with the mission of negotiating with the mountaineers the surrender of their plunder, an object which was finally attained, but not without great difficulty, and only upon Dervish Pasha's written promise that all former depredations of the kind would be pardoned by the Government.

Dervish Pasha, from all I hear, is very unwilling to resort to armed coercion, and tries to obtain the submission of the mountaineers by gaining over their Chiefs, who are just as wily as he is, and put very little faith in his promises.

On the other hand, the military force at the Pasha's disposal is not sufficiently trustworthy, as it is almost entirely composed of Redifs, chiefly from Anatolia, who are loudly clamouring to be sent back to their homes, in virtue of the order for the disbandment of the Redifs in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus; and I now learn that arrangements have been made to dismiss these troops, and replace them by Nizam battalions to be detached from the army in Epirus.

Of the 24 battalions of infantry under Dervish Pasha's immediate orders, 18 are composed of Redifs. This force is distributed as follows:—

7 battalions at Prisrend; 10 battalions at Djacova and Ipek; 3 battalions at Lom; 3 battalions at Dibra; and 1 battalion at Verisovitz.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 55.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 26.)

(No. 812.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 17, 1881.

IN compliance with the request contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 615 of the 2nd instant, I have caused the attention of the Ottoman Government to be called to the proceedings of the provincial authorities in Epirus with regard to brigands who had been induced by the offer of an amnesty to surrender.

I am informed that, in reply, Assim Pasha stated that he could not admit the accuracy of the report, and thinks that there must be some confusion on the part of the informant. His Excellency has promised, however, to inquire into the matter.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 56.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 26.)

E
(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1881.

AT a conference on the 17th instant, M. Novikoff announced, in reference to the question of the Bulgarian tribute and the apportionment of the Bulgarian debt, that he had received an instruction from M. de Giers, the Russian Secretary of State, requesting him to bring to the notice of his colleagues the following points:—

(1.) That it would be impossible to apportion the debt in question without an accurate knowledge of the total debt of Turkey;

(2.) That he knew no other way of obtaining an accurate knowledge of the debt of Turkey except through the instrumentality of the Financial Commission recommended by the 18th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin; and

(3.) That Servia and Roumania would furnish convenient precedents in reference to the question of tribute.

M. Novikoff further informed us that M. de Giers was in communication with the other European Governments upon these points. This announcement seemed at once to put a stop to any inclination which the other Representatives might have had to discuss the matter further; and I consequently contented myself with observing that I did not think there would be any practical difficulty in arriving at an absolute knowledge of the total funded debt of Turkey, as well as at a pretty trustworthy estimate of all her other obligations, outside of the floating debt.

The Prince of Bulgaria confidentially informed an acquaintance of mine, in reference to this subject, that the Bulgarian Government was quite determined not to allow any portion of the Turkish debt to be imposed on Bulgaria, on the ground that none of the sums obtained from the loans forming the debt had been expended upon the Principality.

The Foreign Minister complained to me very bitterly yesterday of the difficulties which the Russian Ambassador was throwing in the way of the settlement of the Bulgarian obligations.

From the general tone of M. Novikoff's language, I gather that Russia is quite determined that Bulgaria shall pay nothing on account of the debt, and as little as possible on account of the tribute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 57.

*Mr. Fraser to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 403.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 23, 1881.

IN reference to a despatch from Belgrade, which is now passing through my hands to the Foreign Office, I spoke to M. de Kállay to-day on the Servian Agrarian Law and its alleged injustice to Mahommedan landholders in the newly annexed districts.

M. de Kállay said that he had not yet been informed of the protests lately made by the Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch. The Austrian Minister at Belgrade, Baron Herbert, had lately been on leave, but was already on his way back to his post, and would immediately arrive there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

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No. 58.

E *Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*
(No. 671.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1881.

I HAVE had before me your despatch No. 767 of the 1st instant, with a Memorandum by the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, calling attention to the manner in which the Capitulations are disregarded by the laws lately passed by the Cretan Assembly.



I have also received from Mr. Consul Sandwith copy of a despatch which he addressed to your Excellency on the 12th instant on the subject, in which he puts forward the suggestion of his French colleague that a Protocol or Convention should be entered into with the Porte securing to foreigners in Crete the privileges which they enjoy in the other provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Government await a report from your Excellency of the view taken of this question by yourself and the other Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 59.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September* 29, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 29, 1881, 10·15 A.M.

FRENCH Ambassador has proposed that Sandwith should confer with First French Secretary of Embassy in regard to encroachments of the Cretan Assembly upon the rights of foreigners.

May I extend Sandwith's leave for another week or ten days for the purpose?